

SPECIAL

Progress report on the ENGLAND TEAMS

SHOOT!

18p

28th JULY, 1979

*Old Firm action as
Rangers captain
Derek Johnstone
(blue shirt) clashes
with Mike Conroy of
Celtic.*

**HOW CLUBS FARED
IN THE 'GATES LEAGUE'**

In colour

AJAX — Dutch Champions

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EMLYN HUGHES aims to play for England - in the 1982 World Cup Finals

It was like a red rag to a bull when Emlyn Hughes (31) read that his days with Liverpool and England were numbered.

"Last season was probably my worst ever for injuries and I must admit I was beginning to think of calling it a draw, when Ron Greenwood gave this terrific boost to me by calling me into the squad for the British Championship.

"Let's be fair if he'd left me out I'd have had no cause for complaint and no one would have been really surprised because I've hardly played for Liverpool.

"Even so Ron has always said he would stand by me and I owe him a great deal for that.

"When I played at Wembley against Wales I felt terrific. There had been speculation that this might be my last cap, that Ron wanted me to go out in style at Wembley, but I don't know where that rumour started because nothing had been said to me.

"Then when I was chosen for the summer tour I knew I still figured in the boss's plans for the European Championship. I only played in the friendly international against Sweden, but everyone was kind enough to say I had a good

game in Stockholm and I almost scored when I hit the crossbar after running over 50 yards - that would have been the icing on the cake.

"Really everything from now on is a bonus but I'm the sort who'll want to carry on playing as long as possible.

"I honestly think I can do a job for England in next year's Finals in Italy - even if it's only as a member of the squad. Just being in the squad is important even if I'm not picked for the big matches.

"I'd also like to think I could be around for the next World Cup Finals in 1982. That may be a bit ambitious but there's no harm in thinking that way.

"I'd give anything to be around a little longer while this team matures. We've got some terrific players and I'm convinced we can win a major trophy with the potential in the squad.

"I've never known a better bunch of lads, a greater team spirit or a common desire to do well.

"Football like everything else goes in cycles and I think we all believe it's come round to England's turn to do well again," he says.



NEWS

Compiled by
Peter Stewart



DESK

FORMER Falkirk manager Billy Little who resigned from Brockville rather than go full-time has bounced quickly back into football management as the new boss of Queen of the South.

Little will be part-time, combining the appointment with his week-day job as a physical education teacher in Falkirk, and the Dumfries board are relying on him to get them promotion back to the Scottish First Division in one season.

Little, a native of Dumfries, won a Scottish Schoolboys cap while at Dumfries Academy. Queen of the South were without a manager for most of last season after ex-Motherwell player Willie Hunter quit. They finished bottom of the First Division.

SLIGO Rovers have lost Billy Sinclair, the most successful manager in the club's history.

The popular Scot led Sligo to their first Championship in 40 years three seasons back and the Rovers were F.A.I. Cup Finalists in 1978. "King Billy", as he was known is now in the U.S., but will return to Glasgow in the Autumn.



Buckley Shock

SURPRISE, surprise. Alan Buckley (left) is back at Walsall after a very brief stay with Birmingham City.

The little striker has rejoined Walsall as their new player-manager in a deal which even surprised the Midlands fans.

Buckley said: "I've always wanted to get into soccer management and this is a good opportunity.

"I always enjoyed my stay at Walsall and the only disappointment last season was to see them relegated into the Fourth Division. Obviously, we must get back into the Third Division as soon as possible."

Walsall received nearly £200,000 from Birmingham City but had to pay the same amount to get their ace striker back to Fellows Park.

FULL-back Terry Gray, who joined Southend from Huddersfield in the close season in exchange for midfielder Mick Laverick, has a special place in his heart for the Essex club's ground at Roots Hall.

It was there nearly six years ago where Terry made his League debut. He had joined Huddersfield 18 months previously straight from grammar school.

Wolves race for start

WOLVES were given the plumb game for the opening day of the season at home to Liverpool. It should have corresponded with the opening of their new stand at Molineux.

Unfortunately, the stand will not be ready in time and the Liverpool game has had to be cancelled.

A Wolves official said: "It is possible that if we had been drawn at home against a team such as Norwich City or Ipswich Town we could have got away with using the ground.

"They do not bring as many supporters as Liverpool and the attendance would have been well below that expected for the visit of the Champions."

As it is, Wolves face a hectic race against time just to get the pitch down in time for their first League game of the season.

Only six weeks before the start of the new campaign there was still building rubble on the Molineux ground.

RULE RELAXED FOR THE CAT

PETER Bonetti (right), the former Chelsea and England goalkeeper, has decided which Scottish club he will play for next season. It's Dundee United in the Premier Division.

Several Scottish clubs were keen to sign the 37-year-old but manager Jim McLean, who was left with goalkeeper problem after a dispute with Hamish McAlpine, stepped in with an acceptable offer to Bonetti who recently set up a small guest house on the Isle of Mull.

It will mean Bonetti leaving Mull by ferry for Oban, a trip of about 45 minutes, before a 150-minute drive to Dundee.

The signing will be completed when his Stamford Bridge contract expires at the end of July and will prove an exemption to manager McLean's rule that his players must live in the Dundee area. But then, McLean realises that every goalkeeper is not a Bonetti!



Discovery

HARTLEPOOL manager Billy Horner, who made a cool £60,000 profit when Malcolm Poskett joined Brighton, believes he has another local "discovery" in Mark Lawrence. Lawrence has finished his draughtsman apprenticeship.

The 19-year-old forward is a play-anywhere type. He hit six goals in three games as a striker last season, but Horner rates his best position as mid-field.

LATE RUN

CARDIFF City's late climb up the Second Division table was just about the most predictable event of the entire 1978-79 season. It was the eighth time in 14 years they have survived after at one stage seeming destined for the Third Division. On two occasions they stayed up on goal average, three times they saved themselves by one point and they also had margins of two and three points for safety.

Contract for Tony

WHEN Workington (Wimbledon replaced them in 1977) were in the Football League, London-born defender or midfielder Tony Geidmintis was a regular choice, totalling 323 appearances.

Then came spells with Watford and Northampton, who surprisingly, gave him a free transfer this time.

But Tony, now 29 years old, stays on the Fourth Division circuit. Halifax have given him a two year contract.



ROGER Avery (above), 18-year-old Cambridge United midfielder player has a special reason for wanting to be successful with United.

The first Cambridge-born player to appear for United in the Football League — he went on as a substitute at Exeter in December, 1977 — he now wants to be the first local boy to make his name with the club.

He won honours for Cambridge and Cambridgeshire as a schoolboy and was a member of United's Youth team, having first joined them in November, 1975, as an associated schoolboy.

FULL marks to Manchester City. Apart from spending over £1 million on new players to strengthen their team this summer, the club have installed under-soil heating in an effort to beat the winter weather.

Photos show how the work is progressing at Maine Road and chief technician Bergier Lunquist from Sweden (below) connecting the pipes.



Motherwell go back to school

MOTHERWELL are to spend ten days at Gordonstoun, the Morayshire public school favoured by the Royal Family, as part of their preparations for the new season.

Manager Ally MacLeod will take a party of 20 players North and they will have full run of all the facilities during their stay — including the swimming pool, gymnasium, and squash courts.

He sees this type of get-together as the ideal way of getting his players, including a number of new signings, to know each other.

THERE were fewer than a dozen major transfer deals between Northern Irish and English clubs in 1978-79.

Biggest single transaction was the combined £90,000 fee Derby County paid Glentoran for eventual Northern Ireland caps Billy Caskey and Vic Moreland, and County also forked out another £40,000 for Cliftonville midfielder Barney Bowers.

Manchester United splashed out £60,000 to complete the triple-capture of Tom Sloan, from Ballymena United, and Tom Connell and Phil McCandless, both from Coleraine. Linfield, too, got in on the lucrative cross-channel act when they picked up a cool £30,000 fee from Swindon Town for Inter-League midfielder Peter Dornan, while Mal Donaghy (Larne to Luton), Steve McAdam and Jim Gardiner (both Portadown-Burnley), and Colin Crawford (Bangor-Sunderland) all fetched fees in the region of £20,000.

FACTastic

DURING the 1972-73 season Walsall called on SEVEN goalkeepers — Bob Wesson, Keith Ball, John Osborne (on loan from West Brom), Dennis Peacock (on loan from Nottingham Forest), Ian Turner (on loan from Grimsby), Glen Johnson (on loan from Doncaster) and James Inger. Between them they conceded 66 Division Three goals. Yet the following season Walsall signed Mick Kearns, from Oxford, and he missed only one of their 46 League games and conceded 48 goals.



EX-England striker Phil Boyer is the only player in history to be sent-off THREE TIMES in either of the domestic Cups! In the League Cup he has been dismissed with Norwich City v. Sheffield United in November, 1974, and with Southampton v. Palace in August, 1977, and Leeds United last January.

Rangers fans in London

DID YOU know there is an active London Branch of the Rangers Supporters Association?

They run regular cheap trips to see Rangers at Ibrox and away, including European Cup-ties abroad.

For further information write to Mr G Brown, Secretary, RFCSA, London Branch, 11 Waghorn Road, Upton Park, London E13.

SHOOT'S GOING UP BUT STILL GREAT VALUE FOR MONEY

Rising production costs have forced us to increase the price of SHOOT to 20p from next week's issue.

But rest assured my team will be striving even harder to maintain the standard of content and presentation that has established SHOOT as the most popular football magazine in the world.

We shall continue to pack it with information about the game at home and abroad... include the top players, managers and personalities, plus the very best in football photography.

Yes, I'm sure you will agree SHOOT remains great value for money for soccer fans everywhere.

David Gregory
EDITOR

NOBBY

COME ON, NOBBY, GET DOWN THAT WING!



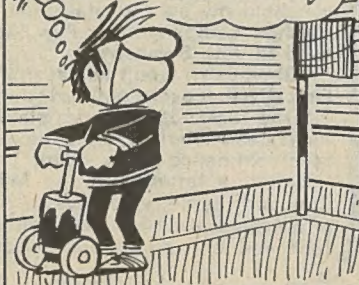
GO ON, TAKE IT RIGHT DOWN TO THE BY-LINE



NOW CUT IN TOWARDS THE GOAL... GO ON, MAN, WHAT ARE YOU STOPPING FOR?



BECAUSE I'VE RUN OUT OF PAINT YOU TWIT!



ALAN Curtis, Leeds United's record £400,000 recent capture from Swansea, is confident he won't feel out of his depth in the top sphere next season even though his First Division experience has been restricted to three hours — as a spectator.

"Why should he?" says fellow Welsh international Brian Flynn, who is helping the 25-year-old former Swansea striker with his house-hunting.

"Alan's proved he can stick the ball in the back of the net for his country as well as his club, so why should he fear life at the top?"

"He's got great all-round ability, as useful in midfield as he is up-front, and I'm delighted he's

"And he's a fighter," enthuses his new boss. "I've had my eye on him for a long time, and in fact I bid over £150,000 for him two years ago when I was at Sunderland," Adamson adds.

"And he's a much better player now. When I first watched him he was in midfield. Now he's a top-class striker."

Curtis, who made his Swansea League debut in 1972 soon after joining them on leaving school at the age of 18, was a late convert to soccer. Until he was 16 he played Rugby and captained the Rhondda boys' under-15 team.

He explains: "Rugby's a religion, of course, in Wales and, being born and bred in the Rhondda Valley, it

'I won't be overawed' says Leeds' ALAN CURTIS who has never played in Division One

decided to join Leeds."

Curtis, 5ft 11in, 12st, leaves Swansea with just a tinge of sadness. His 32 League goals in 1977-78 played a major part in helping his club to win promotion to the Third Division and he admits he would have liked to have lined up alongside player-manager John Toshack as they set out in their new grade after winning promotion again last term.

He explains: "Tosh taught me a lot during the 16 months I spent with him at Vetch Field and I can never repay him for the tips and encouragement he gave me.

"But when Leeds moved in for me I daren't turn down the chance of breaking my ties with my native Wales. I need a fresh challenge at the age of 25. Otherwise I might become a fixture.

"Leeds are a marvellous club. Everyone knows that. They're geared to success and next season they'll be back in Europe so I couldn't be moving at a better time.

"Jimmy Adamson, the Leeds boss, has warned me I'll have to fight for my place but that thought doesn't worry me. My only involvement with the First Division was a seat in the stand at the Spurs-Bristol City match and the Liverpool-Everton clash two years ago, but I saw enough to convince me I can hold my own in more distinguished company than I've been used to with Swansea.

"Obviously I won't adjust to the First Division overnight, but I don't foresee real problems. I've played for Wales 15 times and that gives a man confidence in his ability."

Curtis, a forward in the Mike Channon mould, who likes to run at defences, can shoot with either foot and is a dangerous header.

was second nature to me to play that game. But when I was 16 I gave it up — I couldn't tell you why, it just happened — and joined the village soccer club.

"Swansea scout Geoff Ford spotted me and that was that. I signed for them and made the first team fairly quickly."

A pleasant, intelligent young man, Curtis says he stayed at school until he was 18 because he wanted the security of a good education behind him in case he failed to make the grade. "Most of the male members of my family were miners, including my dad and his father. Lads just seemed to follow their fathers into the pits.

"I wanted the security of knowing that I could tackle a career outside mining if I wanted to."

But there was another bonus for this ambitious Welshman in delaying his entry into the world of work. "By not signing for a League club until I was 18 I didn't get the pleasure coached out of me as happens with lots of pros," he says.

"So I reckon that I retained a lot of my individuality because I didn't come off the customary assembly line."

As he turns his face to a new life in the North of England, Curtis looks back with pleasure on many aspects of his time in Wales. He's seen Swansea win a Second Division place, and the national team make its presence felt on the European scene.

And this dual success has been reflected, he feels, in soccer at last beginning to win many converts from Rugby Union.

"More schools are allowing lads to play soccer and this is bound to benefit the game in Wales," he says.



MICK ROBINSON

THEN: Not wanted at Preston NOW: Record-breaking striker

FORWARD Mick Robinson, who was transferred from Second Division Preston to Manchester City in a £765,000 deal a few weeks ago, says he was saved from soccer's scrapheap by the Deepdale club's assistant-manager Alan Kelly.

But it was another man, former Preston boss Harry Catterick, who stung Mick into proving his worth.

To put it mildly, Catterick made some very uncomplimentary remarks about Robinson nearly three years ago suggesting that he was soft.

He told chairman Alan Jones that Robinson had "a low pain barrier" and really upset the player.

"Catterick told me I was not aggressive enough," explains Mick.

"I had my League debut in a Third Division game at Cardiff City and had also played in a League Cup game at Bury early on the following season.

"But Catterick wanted rid of me and was going to give me a free transfer," he claims.

"Nothing seemed to be going right for me and I knew I might end up on the dole.

"Catterick said I was finished — and it was only Alan Kelly who kept me at the club."

Confidence

Robinson says Kelly took him under his wing, showed faith in him and gave him confidence.

"Alan came back with me in the afternoons for extra training and also trained me on my days off.

"He had me sprinting, shooting and heading the ball continuously and he would kick hundreds of goal-kicks up to me when defender Mick Baxter was challenging me for the ball.

"He would also give me centres and passes and make me shoot with my left foot as well as my stronger right and knock the ball off in tight situations.

"My form improved through the sheer hard work and practice which he gave me."

Robinson says his assets now are that he is quite fast and strong, as well as being good in the air and that he doesn't try to do things that he is not capable of achieving.

"I am more than 13 stone and six feet tall and, I know that if I can keep my speed, I will be difficult to stop because I have been blessed with such a good stature.

"Alan told me that it would be silly not to use my physique.

"I had never really appreciated the advantage it gave me but I make the most of it now.

"Kelly says that it is especially

important for a centre-forward to come off the field with nothing left because a player in that position needs to keep running, even though he might not be getting a kick of the ball.

"So I always let the defenders know I am around.

"I'll always remember one special thing that Alan told me.

"He said that to be a centre-forward you have got to put your head where you are prepared to have it kicked.

"He added that you can always mend your head but you might not get another chance to score a goal!

"What he meant was that there must be no half measures in my displays and I have tried to give everything ever since."

Robinson was born in Leicester but he moved to Blackpool when he was four with his father, a former Orient and Brighton wing half, his mother and elder brother, Tim, who was a centre-forward in

the Blackpool Under-18 team.

"I was the left-half and captain of the Thames Road Primary School team and then captain of the Palatine Secondary School when I became a forward, even though I could not head the ball.

"A teacher, Norman Smith, who scouted for North End, spotted me but I had already had trials with Chelsea, Manchester City and Coventry and I signed schoolboy forms for Coventry.

"I wrote for my release from them because I did not want to leave home.

"I got it and Preston, Blackpool and Blackburn made offers to me.

"But Preston scout Jimmy Scott saw me play for Dolphinholme where Coventry had sent me and I accepted an invitation from North End manager Bobby Charlton."

Robinson's bitter experience with Catterick followed two years later, but he says he started to play well in the reserves and then got a

first team chance again towards the end of the 1977-78 season.

"I scored against Walsall in a League game just before half-time and had a great second-half," he adds.

"I started to believe in myself after being filled with confidence by Kelly.

"I continued to play how he taught me in the reserves and last season was great."

Robinson, who is 21, is now the highest priced British player after £1m Trevor Francis.

"Obviously, I wanted to play in the First Division and another attraction was that I might get a better chance of being noticed for representative honours after having been overlooked for the England Under-21 side so far," he said.

"I am very ambitious and told Preston I would be interested in any First Division club although I would not go to a Second Division side."



Have you ordered your August copy of Soccer Monthly? If not, don't delay. As the new season unfolds, we look at:

England's triumphant summer tour. Michael Hart provides on-the-spot analysis.

Ray Clemence — the man, his methods and his remarkable contribution to Liverpool.

Steve Coppell, Manchester United's talented graduate.

The ambitions and achievements of Manchester City's Malcolm Allison.

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Brighton, the First Division's debutants.

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Mick Mills, England's Mr Professional.

And more, much more with brilliant colour and the thoughts, hopes and fears of the game's top players and managers.

Get Soccer Monthly now and get inside the game.

I RETURNED from the England tour of Bulgaria, Sweden and Austria to find that my wife, Vee, had divided my mail into two piles, one large and one small. I tackled the "football business" first, and left the ones with windows, the bills, to last.

Among the letters were some interesting ones from SHOOT readers, and I've set aside this column to answer a selection.

First, Ray Johnson of Ipswich, wants to know how it was decided which half of England's Austria match my great rival and friend Peter Shilton was chosen to play in. "Did manager Ron Greenwood tell him, or did he leave it up to you both to sort it out?"

Ron informed us of his decision to give each of us half a game during the training session at the stadium in the morning. So I reached down, picked up a blade of grass, put my hands behind my back and asked Peter to guess which held the grass.

He guessed right and chose the first-half. I didn't mind at the time, and minded even less when the Austrians started in tremendous style and roared into a 3-1 lead. They seemed half-a-yard faster than us. We spent the opening 45 minutes chasing shadows and were allowed little time with the ball.

So I swapped places with Peter at

'When I have to play sweeper'

half-time, glad I'd lost the choice of halves. I'm not just being loyal to him when I say that none of the three goals were down to him. The Austrians, playing at their World Cup best, had pulled his defence all over the place and given him no chance.

In the second-half, England staged a fine comeback, reproducing some of the form we'd shown in beating Bulgaria 3-0 at the start of the tour.

We levelled the score to 3-3, only to give away the winner mainly through unfortunate refereeing.

Dave Watson had fouled an Austrian outside the penalty-box. He then ran to take up a position at the far post as the ref awarded them a free-kick. But the ref called him back to admonish him, and before Dave could return to his station, allowed the Austrians to take the

free-kick.

At that moment only the two Phil's — Neal and Thompson — were in front of me to mark three opponents.

So with Dave missing, their most dangerous player — Pezzy, the number five who had scored their first goal — was able to head mightily past me from about ten yards!

Fortunately, the game was only a friendly, and lessons can be learnt which will benefit us in future games with more at stake than prestige.

The next letter comes from Glenis Raybourne of Deal, Kent, who informs me that because her county lacks a top League club, she looked around for one to support and chose Liverpool simply because her Dad was born there and her favourite colour is red!

Glenis is keen to know whether the Liverpool reserve side, who play in the Central League, managed to win the Championship last season.

Yes, they did, Glenis, and added another record to the list we've

collected to make 1978-79 a really memorable one for Anfield.

It was the ninth Championship win in 11 seasons, clinched after a 3-0 home win over Leeds United reserves. In charge was Roy Evans, a great mate of mine who is making a big success on the managerial front.

"Have you ever conceded a penalty?" asks Mike Styles of Wolverhampton.

Afraid so, Mike, but they only add up to less than a handful.

I'm no statistician, so I could be wrong in saying that the last was in season 1971-72 on the day we played Nottingham Forest at Anfield and Kevin Keegan made his debut for us.

We were leading 2-0 when Ian Storey-Moore, a very fast, dangerous winger, broke through into our area with the ball. He made to go



'Mistakes against Aston Villa allowed John Deehan to score twice'

RAY CLEMENCE talking soccer

Oops! Liverpool's last line of defence strikes shirt, Joe Jordan's, instead of leather.





'Liverpool's other Championship winning team'

Cheers! Anfield reserves celebrate their Central League Championship win last season.

round me, I made a frantic dive for the ball, missed, grabbed his ankles and brought him down. Of course, the ref blew up and pointed to the dreaded white spot.

Ian himself took the kick. I guessed where he would place the ball — and got it wrong.

Proof that I've no head for remembering facts and figures — although the SHOOT sub-editors check those I insert in my column as best they can — came in a letter from R. Schofield of Warrington.

He writes: "In SHOOT (April 7th), before the Manchester United F.A. Cup Semi-Final, you said you'd never known the experience of being knocked out in a Semi-Final.

"Your memory has let you down. You were in the Liverpool team which lost a Fairs Cup (now U.E.F.A.) Semi to Leeds one-nil on aggregate in 1970-71."

Thanks for putting the record straight, Mr. Schofield, and I can assure you I'll do more research in future.

Not televised

"What did you think of the Trevor Francis goal that won the European Cup for Nottingham Forest?" That's the question fired at me by Peter White, of Abergele in Wales.

Unfortunately I can't give a verdict, Peter, simply because I was in Israel at the time and the game was not televised there.

In fact, we swapped trophies with Forest, exchanging the European Cup for the Championship, and here and now I give them notice on behalf of Liverpool that next season we'll be aiming to hang on to the one that rests in our trophy room now and relieve them of the other.

"Last season you let in only 16 goals in the League — a record. Do you think you can even better this number of shut-outs?" asks John Reagan of Linton, North Devon.

I've discussed this very thing with the rest of the lads, John, and we've all agreed that even though it's a marvellous feat we can improve on it.

The 16 could well have been only 12, for two were own-goals and two were down to mistakes made by yours truly.

It's an old cliché, but true, that records are made to be beaten.

Problem is, if we concede 16 League goals by next Christmas, our fans will regard it as a disaster!

"How many games did you miss last season?" asks Martin Woodcock of Dover in Kent.

Only one — the second-leg of the Super Cup Final against Anderlecht from Belgium, at Anfield, which we won 2-1. As their score was 3-4 on aggregate, we had to hand over the trophy, which we held through beating Kevin Keegan's Hamburger SV the previous season.

Steve Ogrozcovic stood in for me, on an evening so foggy that supporters present saw very little of what went on. In fact, it's been dubbed "The Game That Never Was" and consequently I'm thinking about inviting Anderlecht over to "replay" it for my testimonial match!

"Could you settle an argument I have with my friend? He says you were booked last season and I maintain you kept a clean sheet. There's a pound at stake."

Sorry, Jim Hart of Carlisle, but you've lost your bet. For I was booked not once, but twice, and for the same offence.

First time was against Q.P.R. in our opening game of the season, at Anfield, which we won 2-1. I brought down one of their forwards outside the box.

Then, in our second-to-last game, at Middlesbrough, where we won 1-0, I came out to a player who had broken past our back-four, mistimed my tackle, and made him eat grass.

My job entails me acting as a sort of sweeper behind our defence and it's an occupational hazard that occasionally I am forced to risk fouling an opponent.

Stay tuned.

Have a good summer.

Ray Clemence

GOAL~LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St., London SE1 9LS.
£3 for the Star letter — £1.50 for every other letter published.
When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Lorraine Glencourse of Livingston Village, West Lothian, who wins our Special Prize of £3. She writes:

A SCOT REPLIES

I AM writing in reply to a letter written in the Goal Lines column headed "Open Letter to Scots".

This letter made me very angry as I felt what was written was untrue. I cannot see how the writer of the letter (Alan Wallace) can sum up the Scottish League as he has done. As he lives in England I do not expect he would see too much Scottish football.

I have seen all the Premier Division teams play, especially Celtic, as that is the team I support. I go either to a Scottish international game or a Celtic game nearly every week during the season and always see good football.

The goalkeepers are reasonably good, too; after all, I see English First Division 'keepers making mistakes every week on the television and if circuses are looking for goalkeepers to employ, Ray Clemence would be first, as letting the ball through his legs at Hampden Park during an international against Scotland would definitely be a great act.

As for loyal fans, we go to games regularly to watch our own teams play. Maybe not as many see teams like Rangers, Hibs and Celtic as Manchester United, but the Scottish League teams are not as big as United. And Scotland does not have as big a population.

I also do not see why Rangers and Celtic would not finish up in the top six of the English First Division, if entered. They both have a long honours roll and have done well in European competitions — Celtic winning the European Cup in 1967 with an all Scots team brought through by the club itself is a good example.

I was not amused when Scotland's trip to Wembley was criticised. We Scotland supporters are very passionate and take the game seriously. I can tell you that it is a fantastic feeling to beat England, like at Bannockburn — and talking of that, a banner at Wembley reading "Remember Bannockburn" was only a humorous slogan, I am sure.

As for Argentina, we all know Scotland played badly and a lot of mistakes were made, although we did finish with a good game against Holland. The letter also mentions England not reaching Argentina. From what was written it sounds very like Alan Wallace was using Italy as yet another excuse for England failing to qualify.

He also talks about Scotland's trip to Wembley and how we all talk about it. We Scots get tired too you know. After all, when will we hear the end of England's "great victory" in the 1966 World

Cup? We also have to listen about England regularly on the football programmes on a Saturday.

Finally, I have always thought highly of the English First Division and I enjoy following a few good teams as there are some excellent games in England throughout the season. But where would English football be without the Scottish players!

● And now — a truce... for a while!

Kidd will score over Robinson

THE decision by Manchester City to pay £750,000 for Mick Robinson was, to say the least, ludicrous. How could City sell a proven goalscorer (Brian Kidd) for £150,000 and then pay £600,000 more for a striker with a mid-table Second Division club?

I'll lay my head on the line and say Kidd will score more goals than Robinson next season.

DAVID WIGGINS,
LIVERPOOL.

● Gordon Lee has so many players at Everton I wonder just who will play in his first team. In quantity, if not quality, Everton have the strongest squad in the League. Mick Robinson is featured on page 5, of course.



'J' or 'Y'?

IN your Focus on Frans Thijssen you spelt his name incorrectly; it should be Thijssen, not Thyssen as you printed.

ROSEMARY STEWARD,
IPSWICH.

● The Focus form was filled in by Frans (above) personally, and he wrote Thyssen. Or so we thought at first glance. Frans's original Focus is a little confusing, but apologies.

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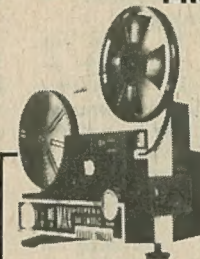
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TWO EX-HAMMERS HOPING TO HIT THE HIGHSPOTS AGAIN

ALAN CURBISHLEY *Birmingham*

'A testing time for us all'



ALAN Curbishley felt more than a twinge of regret when he left West Ham and joined Birmingham in a £225,000 deal last month.

It broke his heart to leave the club he had supported as a youngster and joined straight from school six years ago.

But when it came to the crunch he had to put sentiment behind him and accept that his future lay away from Upton Park.

Curbishley, an England schoolboy and youth international, recognised that he would be the odd man out at West Ham. That's why he refused to renew his contract when it expired at the end of the season.

He said: "A midfield trio of Trevor Brooking, Alan Devonshire and myself just could not blend. All three of us are strongest in possession, not a recognised ball-winner among us."

"Someone in that department has to chase, hassle, tackle back and take on a destructive role — and I was the one chosen to do it."

"I had a go at it, even though it was not my style and there were occasions when I hardly managed to get into the opponent's half of the field."

"I did it because it was in the interests of the club. I wanted to help us back into the First Division at the first attempt. But we failed to win promotion in the end."

"With eight games remaining manager John Lyall dropped me and pushed skipper Billy Bonds

into midfield.

"I knew then that there was no future at the club and decided there would be no point in renewing my contract."

"It was not an easy decision to make, for I love West Ham. I was born in the East End of London, supported The Hammers from an early age and used to dream about playing for them."

"But it's a hard game and there's little room for sentiment."

"In view of the fact my roots are in London a lot of people are surprised that I have joined Birmingham. But it's not the other side of the world. It's only 90 minutes up the motorway."

"Why Birmingham? I know they have had their problems and have just been relegated to the Second."

'Determined'

"But I was impressed with their manager, Jim Smith."

"He is determined to get Birmingham back up among the big boys and I was impressed with his plans."

"He is a straight dealer who does not make idle promises. I like that."

"And since I made my decision Jim has been marvellous. He has done everything possible to help me adjust to the move, sorting out lodgings and attending to other small details. Nobody could have done more for me and I'd like to thank him publicly."

"It's obviously going to be strange at first and I beg the Birmingham fans to give me a chance to settle in."

"I'll be going flat out to help Blues back into the First Division at the first attempt. Having suffered the heartbreak of missing out with West Ham last season I don't want to go through all that again."

"But don't expect miracles, please. Just as I have got to adjust to a new club and new surroundings so the Birmingham players have got to adjust to a lower grade."

"All we need is a reasonable start to put us in there with a real chance. This will either be a great move for me — or a disaster. It's entirely up to me which way it goes."

"If I do the business on the field it will work out fine. I am really determined to make a go of it."

With an attitude like that Curbishley should help banish the blues that have been hanging around St. Andrews for far too long.

BRYAN ROBSON *Sunderland*

'I had to safeguard my future'

WEST Ham manager John Lyall used all his powers of persuasion during the close season trying to keep star striker Bryan "Pop" Robson at Upton Park.

The fact that he failed and had to let Robson move to his native Sunderland for £45,000 is no reflection on Lyall's bargaining powers.

Robson had made up his mind to leave The Hammers — for the second time in his career — because the time has arrived for him to think of earning a living outside football.

And he has decided to do that back in the North-East, where he is negotiating to buy a restaurant-discotheque.

"I'm 33 now and have got to start thinking about what to do when my playing days are over," said Robson, who has scored 209 goals in his career with Newcastle, West Ham and Sunderland.

"Within three or four years I shall probably be finished as a player. So I decided I had to take steps to safeguard my future now. That's why I refused a new contract with West Ham and decided to settle back up North."

"As my wife and I both come from there and we still have relatives in the area I suppose it was inevitable we would always go back there one day."

"We talked it over between us and decided that now would be the right time to do it. But it was by no means an easy decision."

'Adopted'

"For, despite the fact that I am a Georgie I have been happy to be an 'adopted' Londoner."

"I'll be very sorry to leave, for a lot of reasons. West Ham are my kind of football team, you get more involved in things in London and we have made a lot of good friends down here."

"I love to score goals, and West Ham's policy of attacking football helps me to do that."

"And the Upton Park fans have been marvellous to me. Their votes carried me to second place in this season's Hammer of the Year competition — behind Alan Devonshire."

"I won it in a previous spell with the club, so you can see why I have such a high regard for them."

"West Ham are a fine club. They have a good name in the game and if John Lyall gets the players he is looking for I'm sure they will win their place back in the First Division next term."

"John was honest and fair with



me. There was no doubt that he wanted to keep me at the club. He was very persuasive, but I had made up my mind to look towards the day when my playing career was over."

"That's why I decided to move back for a second spell with Sunderland. And it could not have been too great a surprise when I plumped for Roker Park, because I have been linked with them in the past."

"They were apparently interested in me during the last close season, when Jimmy Adamson was manager there. Nothing happened on that occasion. But it all went through smoothly this time and I'm looking forward to going back there."

The popular Robson began his career with Newcastle. After eight years with them he caused a storm by hiring a room in a local hotel to call a Press Conference and announce that he wanted to leave that club.

He got his wish, with a £120,000 move to West Ham in 1971. He was there for three years, before heading back North-East to join Sunderland for £145,000.

In 1976 he went back to West Ham, costing them £80,000 this time. Now he is off again to make sure his family are well looked after when he finishes playing."

We are convinced there are more goals in him before that time arrives and wish him all the best for the future. Few players have done more to bring credit to the game."

Scotland's goalkeepers have been the subject of much abuse over the years. Some of the criticism has been justified, much of it unfounded. But here we bring you a gallery of pictures in which their goalkeepers demonstrate no lack of courage when they find themselves under siege from goal-hungry forwards. Right, Hibernian's goalkeeper Jim McArthur flings himself to save from Frank McGarvey (left, now Liverpool), of St. Mirren with George Stewart (number five) and Arthur Duncan covering.



BRAVE SCOTS...



Left, St. Mirren's goalkeeper Andy Geoghegan risks his neck at the feet of Kilmarnock's Bobby Streete. Above, Hamilton's Rikki Fleming dives at the onrushing Aberdeen sharpshooters Drew Jarvie and Joe Harper to save. Right, Peter McCloy safely gathers the ball for Rangers despite the challenge of Dundee's Eric Sinclair



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FULL NAME: David Cross
BIRTHPLACE: Heywood, Lancs
BIRTHDATE: 8th December, 1950
HEIGHT: 6ft
WEIGHT: 12st
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Rochdale, Norwich City, Coventry City and West Bromwich Albion
MARRIED: No but engaged
FAVOURITE PLAYER: My old team-mate at West Brom now at Newcastle Mick Martin
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: West Bromwich Albion
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Jim Holton, Coventry City
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: 1973 League Cup Final. Norwich v Tottenham
BIGGEST THRILL: First hat-trick for West

Ham v Ipswich Town two seasons ago
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Relegation in 1977-78
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: Bahamas
FAVOURITE FOOD: I enjoy almost anything
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Playing golf, reading and listening to good music
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Driving and rude people
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Coronation Street
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Elton John, The Who, Frez Greavsby and the Rolling Stones
FAVOURITE ACTOR: Paul Newman
BEST FRIENDS: Malcolm Southern, Steven Acorns, Bobby Downes (Watford), Nigel Fletcher (Lieutenant Pigeon, pop group)

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My old boss at Albion now manager at Shamrock Rovers, Johnny Giles
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Losing
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: None
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be happy
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To continue enjoying playing
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? A success
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Prince Charles

David Cross

SHOOT!

SCOTLAND'S new cap Frank McGarvey is poised to show Liverpool fans the searing pace that has won him recognition North of the border.

He is certain to burst on the Anfield scene in 1979-80 season as the League Champions launch their campaign to retain their First Division title and move mountains to knock Nottingham Forest's European Cup crown askew.

Bob Paisley's capture from St. Mirren for £300,000 turned a dream into a reality for the lightning swift forward, capped for the first time by Scotland against Argentina, at Hampden Park, in June.

"I received a telephone call from Saints manager Jim Clunie telling me to get down to Love Street," says Frank. "He told me an English club was interested in me.

"Normally it takes me something like 45 minutes to get from my house to the ground, but that day I did it in 15 minutes!

"All the time I was hoping and praying it was Liverpool who had come in for me. They were the club



Scottish internationals Kenny Dalglish (left) and Graeme Souness.

shake of those hips."

McGarvey's last game for the Saints was against Partick Thistle at Love Street in a 1-1 League draw in front of only 3,000 fans. He scored the Paisley side's goal that night with a header past his international colleague Alan Rough.

Things will be different from now on in for the fleet-footed McGarvey, who is a player who likes to keep his promise.

Earlier last season he asked for a transfer and was watched by a host of clubs including Dutch cracks Ajax and PSV Eindhoven. However, there was no business done and McGarvey says: "I decided to withdraw my transfer request and show everyone I was worth big money."

He did that with a series of bewildering displays as he created havoc in the rearguards of Premier Division defences.

The menace of McGarvey is now in England. Liverpool fans will undoubtedly enjoy his exciting brand of soccer. Defenders will wish he had remained in Scotland!

FRANK MCGARVEY

Liverpool's 'unknown' star

I wanted to join and who could blame me?

"They are a marvellous team with wonderful supporters and, of course, they are ambitious and successful. You can imagine how I felt when I was told it was Liverpool.

"I couldn't sign quick enough. I was told to keep things quiet and not to say a word to anyone — not even my closest friends — or the deal might be called off.

"It was agony trying to keep something like that a secret! Leaving the Saints for Liverpool is like stepping into a different world.

"If I had joined Liverpool from a club such as Celtic or Arsenal possibly this feeling of the big time wouldn't be so strong. However, I'm just delighted to be here.

"I'm looking forward to this challenge and I want to prove to the manager, Bob Paisley, that I am worth every penny of the £300,000 he paid for me."

Although he is comparatively unknown South of the border, there is little doubt McGarvey will be a huge success. He will combine well with fellow Scots Kenny Dalglish, Graeme Souness and Alan Hansen.

Defenders will not relish facing up to McGarvey, whose pace is frightening. His acceleration is breathtaking and once he is in the box he can score goals with either foot from any angle.

"He's mustard in that penalty-box," says one defender who won't be too unhappy about the transfer to England. "He can turn you inside out with just one



THE phrase "big money" in terms of transfer fees is, of course, only relative. One man's fortune is another man's pittance. In England, where £1 million gets you a player of only limited international experience, sums like £200,000 are gambled on virtual unknowns.

But in Scotland that is a financial barrier which has still to be breached. Sure, players like Kenny Dalglish at £440,000 and Lou Macari at £200,000 smashed the double ton-up barrier ages ago — but Frank McDougall, a virtual unknown South of the border, is the dearest player ever to be transferred between two Scottish clubs.

He left First Division Clydebank for Premier Division St Mirren in a

deal which cost the Paisley buyers £180,000.

It smashed the previous all-Scottish record held by Davie Provan in his move from Kilmarnock to Celtic by £55,000 and was something of a boost to all provincial clubs because neither Rangers nor Celtic were involved.

Indeed, the signing was a blow to Celtic because it was an open secret that they wanted McDougall and had already made a £100,000 bid for his services.

To make the whole thing more curious, McDougall had admitted that he wanted to sign for no one but the Parkhead club. So as McDougall made his move just

across the River Clyde he joined another club apart from St Mirren and with all due respect to The Baggies, this one was just a bit more exclusive.

McDougall, at £180,000 — £140,000 to Clydebank plus VAT and extras — became only the seventh player costing more than £100,000 to be transferred between Scottish clubs.

He called the price on his head "frightening" but admitted: "I changed my mind about Celtic because St Mirren moved first and they're an ambitious club I've always admired. I want to win something and St Mirren have a squad who can do just that."

Saints have another member of the exclusive £100,000 club. He is

FRANK McDOUGALL Scotland's costliest player

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McDougall's fellow striker Doug Somner who moved from Partick Thistle in the close season to give Saints a deadly partnership which more than makes up for the £300,000 departure of Frank McGarvey to Liverpool.

The members of the "100 Up Society" don't even add up to the price of Trevor Francis between them, but Scotland can still be proud that six-figure sums are fly-



Celtic's Davie Provan (left) and Davie Cooper of Rangers (above).

ing about in the transfer market.

Colin Stein started it all when he moved for £100,000 from Hibs to Rangers.

Gordon Strachan (Dundee to Aberdeen for cash plus Jim Shirra), Davie Cooper (Clydebank to Rangers), Murdo MacLeod (Dumbarton to Celtic) and Davie Provan followed and then Ayr United goalie Hugh Sproat went to Motherwell in a player plus cash swap rated on the six-figure mark.

That is eight players in all, and if you think that little Joe Harper should be included, you're wrong. It is a popular misconception that he went from Hibs to Aberdeen for around £100,000. Rest assured he was the bargain of the decade at something less than £40,000.

It all makes interesting reading for both football fans and bank managers but if you still don't reckon the forward line is the glamour position of the side, consider this fact.

Five of the Big Eight are forwards... and there isn't a defender among them.

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IT'S a strange position being a Scot playing in England. There is no doubt a successful England side is good for the Football League, but no Scottish player could claim to be a member of the England supporters' club!

Let's just say I want England to do well . . . but not at the expense of Scotland!

In previous columns I've expressed doubts about the England side currently winning admirers throughout Europe, but even their run of good results hasn't made me change my mind completely.

What I do like about Ron Greenwood's England is the way they play, although I still don't believe the team is as strong as some people are making out. The countries they have played and beaten in the past season have not been what I'd call top-class — and I have to include Scotland in that. During the British Championship Jock Stein was experimenting and introducing new players and the fine 4-0 win in Norway was just reward for all the hard work he's put in.

ANDY
GRAY

Writes for you



'Still some reservations about England'

The two hardest tests England have faced have been away to West Germany and Austria . . . and they've lost both matches. Those countries are packed with skill and experience, but well though England played in Munich and Vienna, the fact remains they lost.

Even so, Ron Greenwood's ideas appeal to me. He has got his side playing football, and if that sounds obvious, you know what I mean. Even when England were two goals down to Austria, they kept faith with their positive approach, not being panicked into desperation soccer.

Ron's philosophy seems to be "if we score more than the opposition then that's all that matters" which has meant England being involved in some thrilling, high-scoring

games.

I'd say England could field two or three different sides and they'd all be hard to beat. With the depth of talent available, England should always have a reasonably strong team.

England have quality players in the three key positions . . . down the centre of the side. In goal, there is Peter Shilton or Ray Clemence; no other country in the world has such reliable 'keepers to choose from.

At centre-half, Ron Greenwood gets Dave Watson playing better than I thought possible . . . and then there is Kevin Keegan, the best forward in Europe at the moment.

I had my doubts when Kevin went to West Germany whether he'd be a success. Now, two years later, he



available to Greenwood, but this puts a lot of strain on his midfielders.

One aspect of the England midfield I like is the way they play the ball around. They are not afraid to play it backwards to go forward. At times, it isn't possible to hit a through-ball straight away and England have shown remarkable patience in this respect, which could be said to be very un-British!

England adapted to the stifling heat of Bulgaria very well. It is hopeless in such conditions to hit long balls for the forwards to chase, because they'll simply burn themselves out.

still lost. Usually, that number is enough for victory.

Even in defeat, England played well, but there were lessons to be learnt from the match.

Right now, I'd say there isn't a really outstanding European side, with four or five more or less equal. I'd like to see England playing more of these top countries to test themselves.

For instance, West Germany aren't the team they were, but they still came to Wrexham in May and beat Wales comfortably 2-0. And Wales certainly aren't a bad side.

The Germans, Dutch and Italians don't have the superstar players of a

LEFT . . . "A great result for England in Bulgaria, despite inferior opposition."

BELOW . . . "The 4-3 game against Austria made good television."



has matured into a player of the highest calibre. Of all his qualities, I feel his ability to shake off a close marker is the one I like most. In Germany, all the clubs operate a man-for-man marking system, which has helped Kevin at international level. No doubt about it, he's a fabulous player.

I'm still a little worried about the age of several players and I wouldn't be surprised if one or two are replaced next season. It's not been easy for Greenwood to change his winning team, but the time to make alterations is when things are going well, not when there's a slump.

England are as good as qualified for the 1980 European Championship Finals and the manager must have one eye on the World Cup in '82. He's given some younger players a brief chance and next season I expect Greenwood to give one or two longer runs in the senior side.

England are compact at the back, although unlike most teams they don't have a dynamo in midfield . . . a terrier or a ball-winner such as Asa Hartford or Archie Gemmill. I realise there isn't a similar player

They played intelligent, possession-football and their 3-0 win was fully deserved. Mind you, didn't Bulgaria look a poor side? When Northern Ireland won there last year, we all sat up and took notice . . . now we know! Our reserves could beat them! Still, 3-0 is a good away win against anyone in competitive football and it virtually ensures their place in the European Championship Quarter-Finals next summer.

The game in Sweden was a real nothing game. Ron Greenwood made nine changes and regretted it. You just can't make that many alterations and get away with it and the match was a bore.

After that, I was wondering about the match in Vienna; I needn't have worried. I was on the edge of my seat with the excitement. I played for Scotland in the same stadium last season when we lost 3-2. If anything, Austria looked an even better side against England. Some of their football was quite exceptional.

It must have been very disappointing for England to have scored three goals away from home and

few years ago. They still have enough class and know-how to show us a thing or two, however.

To close, I decided to have a holiday after all and left for the West Coast of America on June 26th for a couple of weeks. After my cartilage operation in May, I was told by specialists everything was fine and training has gone better than I could have hoped.

I've done lots of weights and running and I was told just before I left for the States I was four weeks ahead of schedule. Mind you, I'd planned for a working holiday . . . if you can call running along a Californian beach "work"!

Join me again in a fortnight,

Andy Green

David Armstrong



DAVID Armstrong of Middlesbrough can claim the title of the most consistent player in the League.

The finish of the 1978-79 season saw David complete six seasons without missing a League game for the Ayresome Park club.

He started his remarkable run of consecutive League appearances against Aston Villa at Ayresome on March 24th, 1973 after making his League debut the previous season for Boro.

But other players, too, have exemplary playing records. Chris Topping is one with an incredible record of consistency. His appearance record finally ended when the former York City star had completed 354 consecutive League appearances for the club before crossing Yorkshire to Huddersfield Town.

However, a change of colours for Topping also halted his long run when he was injured in Huddersfield's 23rd League match of last season at Grimsby on February 3rd, 1979 and ended a sequence of 377 consecutive League appearances.

Orient goalkeeper John Jackson may be getting on in years, but he is without doubt still one of the finest 'keepers in the game.

Jackson increased his ever-present record to five complete seasons by playing in every game of the 1978-79 campaign.

Leicester City manager Jock Wallace is in the process of reshaping

the Second Division club into a possible promotion side. Many young players were given their League chance to shine last season.

But one player who kept his place, as old team-mates were replaced, was City goalkeeper Mark Wallington. He was the only City star to appear in every League game last season.

It was the fourth successive season that Wallington had performed the feat and the only other player with a four-year unbroken run was Liverpool's England defender Phil Neal.

All three of England's current international goalkeepers were ever-presents last season. Ray

Clemence (Liverpool), Peter Shilton (Nottm. Forest) and Joe Corrigan (Manchester City).

There was a slight increase of players to complete the long League course, 105 against the 101 in the 1977-78 season. The number was made up with 29 from the First Division, 20 in the Second, 27 in the Third and 29 in the Fourth.

Six players played in every game, but had to include substitute appearances. They were Tait (Carlisle, 45 and 1 sub), Allinson (Colchester, 45 and 1 sub), Bannister (Hull, 43 and 3 sub), Seacole (Oxford, 45 and 1 sub), Porterfield (Sheff. Wed, 45 and 1 sub), Kilmore (Scunthorpe, 44 and 2 sub).

Liverpool and Grimsby Town

NOT OUT

Football League

FIRST DIVISION

	No. of Ever-Presents		No. of players used
ARSENAL	NIL		23
ASTON VILLA	1	Jimmy Rimmer	26
BIRMINGHAM C.	NIL		26
BOLTON W.	3	Jim McDonagh, Mike Walsh, Frank Worthington	19
		Gerry Sweeney	21
BRISTOL CITY	1		31
CHELSEA	NIL		24
COVENTRY C.	2	Bobby McDonald, Tommy Hutchison	29
DERBY CO.	1	Steve Buckley	23
EVERTON	1	George Wood	21
IPSWICH T.	2	Mick Mills, John Wark	19
LEEDS U.	NIL		15
LIVERPOOL	4	Ray Clemence, Phil Neal, Ray Kennedy, Kenny Dalglish	23
MAN. CITY	1	Joe Corrigan	22
MAN. UTD.	1	Steve Coppell	23
MIDDLESBROUGH	1	David Armstrong	25
NORWICH C.	2	Tony Powell, Kevin Bond	20
NOTTM. FOREST	2	Peter Shilton, John Robertson	23
Q.P.R.	NIL		21
SOUTHAMPTON	3	Malcolm Waldron, Alan Ball, Phil Boyer	25
TOTTENHAM H.	1	Steve Perryman	17
W.B.A.	2	Tony Godden, John Wile	22
WOLVES	1	Derek Parkin	

SECOND DIVISION

	No. of Ever-Presents		No. of players used
BLACKBURN R.	NIL		18
BRIGHTON	1	Gary Williams	26
BRISTOL ROVERS	2	Martin Thomas, David Williams	18
BURNLEY	1	Alan Stevenson	21
CAMBRIDGE U.	2	Steve Fallon, Tom Finney	27
CARDIFF C.	NIL		20
CHARLTON A.	NIL		18
CRYSTAL PALACE	2	John Burridge, Ken Sansom	22
FULHAM	1	Richard Money	29
LEICESTER C.	1	Mark Wallington	23
LUTON T.	NIL		28
MILLWALL	1	Pat Cuff	29
NEWCASTLE U.	NIL		17
NOTTS CO.	3	Arthur Mann, Brian Stubbs, John McCulloch	23
OLDHAM A.	2	Peter McDonnell, Les Chapman	20
ORIENT	2	John Jackson, Nigel Gray	23
PRESTON N.E.	1	Roy Tunks	28
SHEFFIELD UTD.	NIL		21
STOKE C.	NIL		22
SUNDERLAND	NIL		20
WEST HAM	1	Paul Brush	23
WREXHAM	NIL		



Pat Cuff (left) was Millwall's only ever-present, and striker Steve Phillips (above) did likewise for Brentford.



lead the way with four ever-presents last season.

The League Champions boasted Clemence, Neale, Ray Kennedy and Kenny Dalglish, while the Fourth Division runners-up had Nigel Batch, Joe Waters, Dean Crosbie and Kevin Moore in all their 46 League games.

Another interesting fact was the three clubs relegated from the First — Chelsea, Birmingham and Q.P.R. — did not have one in their sides.

Tommy Gore was one of three Wigan players on duty every League match.

FOR BORO'S DAVID ARMSTRONG

ever-presents for 1978-79

THIRD DIVISION

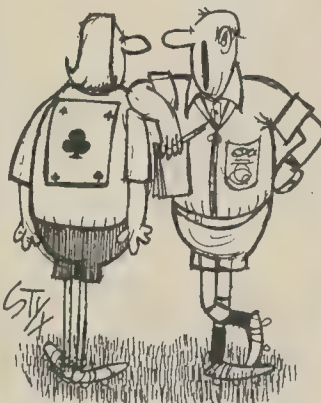
	No. of Ever- Presents		No. of players used
BLACKPOOL	1	Stan McEwan	28
BRENTFORD	1	Steve Phillips	22
BURY	1	David Wilson	26
CARLISLE U.	3	Steve Hoolickin, Bobby Parker, George McVitie Trevor Storton	18 20 21 19
CHESTER	1	Mike Walker, Mike Cook	22
CHESTERFIELD	NIL	Mark Weatherley	21
COLCHESTER U.	2	Gordon Nisbet, Keith Edwards	21
EXETER C.	NIL		29
GILLINGHAM	1		24
HULL C.	2	Les Taylor	22
LINCOLN C.	NIL	Keith Waugh	27
MANSFIELD T.	NIL		26
OXFORD U.	1	Gerald Forrest, John Green, Trevor Phillips	19 24 19
PETERBOROUGH U.	1	Colin Griffin	21
PLYMOUTH A.	NIL	Philip Dudley	22
ROTHERHAM U.	3	Geoff Crudgington	22
SHEFFIELD WED.	NIL	Andy Ford, Ray McHale, Roy Carter	22
SHREWSBURY T.	1	Leslie Parry, Clive Evans	24
SOUTHEND U.	1	John Stirk, Ross Jenkins	19
SWANSEA C.	1		
SWINDON T.	3		
TRANMERE R.	2		
WALSALL	NIL		
WATFORD	2		

FOURTH DIVISION

	No. of Ever- Presents		No. of players used
ALDERSHOT	2	Glen Johnson, John Dungworth	19
BARNLEY	3	John Collins, John Saunders, Mike McCarthy Ken Allen, Keith Miller	20 22 20 23
BOURNEMOUTH	2	Dennis Wann	19
BRADFORD C.	NIL	Dennis Peacock	27
CREWE ALEX.	NIL	Nigel Batch, Joe Waters, Dean Crosbie, Kevin Moore Chris Dunleavy	18 23 23 31
DARLINGTON	1	Peter Hart	24
DONCASTER R.	1	Howard Goddard	27
GRIMSBY T.	4	John Farrington	23
HALIFAX T.	1	Peter Mellor	21
HARTLEPOOL U.	NIL	Bernard Wright	29
HEREFORD U.	NIL	Steve Death, Mark White, Martin Hicks	17
HUDDERSFIELD T.	1		
NEWPORT CO.	1	Graeme Crawford	19
NORTHAMPTON T.	1	John Turner	22
PORTSMOUTH	1	Tommy Gore, Ian Purdie, Jeff Wright	21
PORT VALE	1		
READING	3	Robert Kay, Andy Clements	26
ROCHDALE	NIL		19
SCUNTHORPE U.	1		
STOCKPORT CO.	NIL		
TORQUAY U.	1		
WIGAN A.	3		
WIMBLEDON	NIL		
YORK C.	2		

FOOTBALL FUNNIES

"I don't care if you are an ace — you're supposed to wear a number on your back"



This week Sunderland's WILF ROSTON selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx

"One strength is his consistency — who else could miss five penalties on the trot?"



"Watch out for their number six — he's been told not to let you out of his sight"



"Very nice of you to come in and see me, Smith — now these rumours about you becoming a little big-headed"

Week ending APRIL 28 . . .

FOREST REACH EURO FINAL

THE week starts with good news for Arsenal. There's only a one-match ban for big Willie Young controversially sent off at Derby — even rival manager Tommy Docherty offered to back his cause — and so he'll be O.K. for Wembley.

Liverpool, for once, drop a point at Southampton. But West Bromwich are also held in the local derby with doomed Birmingham — so it's still as-you-were at the top . . . and that means a healthy seven-point lead for the Anfielders.

But Wednesday is the important one, with Forest standing all-square at 3-3 with Cologne — and desperate to claw themselves back into the European Cup Semi-Final out in Germany.

A crisp, decisive 64th-minute header by Ian Bowyer is enough to do the trick.

It's a great team-performance, with every member of the side giving everything he's got to upset all the odds — and Forest can now plan to complete a hat-trick of English successes in the Final in Munich next month.

Malmö, managed by Englishman Bob Houghton, will be their opponents — and, though the Swedish club have been the shock giantkillers of the competition so far, the omens now look good for Forest.

Maybe not such a good omen for another Cup Final — at Wembley — is Arsenal's 5-1 thumping by Aston Villa.

Still, they can be heartened by the fact that Villa whacked Ipswich 6-1 last season — just seven days before the East Anglians conquered Arsenal at

Wembley!

The Football Writers' Association name Kenny Dalglish as "Footballer of the Year". And no one can argue with that. Second is Ossie Ardiles; with Liam Brady third. But the Merseyside Magician picks up more votes than all the other candidates put together.

Palace manager Terry Venables predicts the Second Division promotion race won't be all over until the last ball is kicked.

It's still any three-from-five, though West Ham drop a real clanger by squandering a home point to Wrexham — who, with Dai Davies sent off, have to play a man short, with a deputy goalkeeper, for more than an hour.

But, with games in hand on their rivals, The Hammers can still get back to Division one at first attempt.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: 6 — Bradford City.
TOTAL GOALS: 117 (average 2.66 per game).
HAT-TRICKS: 3 — Allen (Q.P.R. v. Coventry); Waddle (Swansea v. Southend); McNiven (Bradford City v. Crewe).
TABLE-TOPPERS: Div. 1, Liverpool; Div. 2, Brighton; Div. 3, Swansea; Div. 4, Reading.
HIGHEST GATE: 42,474 (Manchester Utd. v. Derby).
TOTAL GATE: 600,560.
AVERAGE GATE: 13,649.

GOAL-KING RITCHIE CROWNED

CELTIC start their run in for the flag with two, one-two's. The first comes in mid-week when goals by Edvaldsson and Aitken gives them a win over St Mirren. McGarvey scores for Saints.

The second happens when Dundee United visit Celtic Park. After being behind from a Dodds goal in the first-half Celtic come back to win. Doyle heads home an Aitken lob and in the 69th minute Lynch nets from the penalty spot after Doyle had been brought down in the box.

Rangers crush Hearts at Ibrox after going down 2-1 to Aberdeen away from home during the week.

Aberdeen at home to St Mirren find themselves at the wrong end of a 2-1 scoreline. The Dons are first to score through Archibald but Saints, generalised by McGarvey pick up the points thanks to Torrance and Stark.

Hibs are steam-rollered by Thistle in mid-week and the Glasgow side run out the winners 6-1. But on the Saturday

the topsy turvy world of football takes over. Just before the interval Gibson of Thistle is sent off.

In the second-half Callaghan scores the only goal of the game.

Both sets of fans are kept happy at Fir Park as Motherwell and Morton draw 3-3.

Scotland's Player of the Year is announced . . . Morton's Andy Ritchie. He is one of the best dead ball kickers in the game and though he very rarely seems to break sweat he has 28 goals to his credit at the time of picking up the title.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST GATE: 35,000 Celtic v. Dundee United.
PREM. DIV. TOTAL ATT.: 79,000.
TOTAL GOALS: 50.
TABLE TOPPERS: Dundee United.
HIGHEST SCORE: 4 Rangers.

Week ending MAY 5 . . .

BARNES GETS £650,000 TAG

A FIRST Division club has a maximum of 84 points to play for — though none has ever yet got more than the 67 of Leeds in 1968-69.

So far, that is. For Liverpool kick-off the week with a superbly efficient 4-1 win at Bolton to raise their own tally to 60. They have four games left — but need to win them all to set up a new record. The bookies, though, shrewdly won't offer much against.

Malmö manager Bob Houghton comes over on a spying mission — but admits he's baffled as Forest lose to struggling Wolves. "I know what they can do," says Bob, "but can't make out why they didn't tonight."

Still — as Houghton, Taylor, and everyone else knows — Forest can usually manage to turn it on when and where it really matters.

Blanchflower's Chelsea may be doomed — but at least there's some consolation in Danny's Northern Ireland.

They give England a great boost in the same European Championship group with a 2-0 win over Bulgaria. Wales stay on top of their group — but a 0-2 Wrexham defeat by West Germany now makes the latter firm favourites to reach the final stages.

Looks like there's a big transfer battle in the offing for Manchester City's unsettled Peter Barnes — though the £650,000 valuation placed on him narrows down potential buyers to the elite few.

Ron Greenwood elects his squad for the coming British Championship, and the three matches in Europe to follow.

By and large, it's a big vote for the tried-and-tested — but an interesting uncapped inclusion is Kenny Sansom, Palace's excit-

ing young defender.

With the European Cup Final in mind, Greenwood excuses the Forest contingent from the earlier games — and so, for once, relieves himself of one of the biggest (if happiest!) problems facing any international manager . . . whether to play Classic Clemence or Super Shilton.

Saturday comes — and up to the First go Stoke (winners at Notts County) and Brighton (winners at Newcastle).

West Ham fail against bottom club Blackburn — so the last promotion place rests between Sunderland and Palace. Both have 55 points — but Palace have one final, vital game to play. A draw at home to Burnley will be enough to go up; a win will make them Champions.

And Liverpool's 2-0 win over Southampton means they need take only one point from their three remaining games, to gain the League title for the third time in four years — but, in their present mood, it's doubtful if they'll settle for just that alone!

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: 4 — Lincoln; Doncaster; Rochdale.
TOTAL GOALS: 96 (average 2.23 per game).
HAT-TRICKS: 1 — Lewis (Doncaster at Grimsby).
TABLE-TOPPERS: Div 1, Liverpool; Div 2, Brighton; Div 3, Watford; Div 4, Reading.
HIGHEST GATE: 46,687 (Liverpool v. Southampton).
TOTAL GATE: 498,070.
AVERAGE GATE: 11,583.

McGARVEY GETS 'DREAM' MOVE

RANGERS find themselves the bookies' favourites as they beat Celtic 1-0 in the Premier Division at Hampden. Alex MacDonald scrambles in the winner in the 57th minute.

In mid-week Rangers run out the winners over hosts Motherwell 2-1 while Celtic stay on the Championship trail with a fine 3-1 victory over Hibs.

Dundee United see their title hopes fade when a hotly contested penalty gives Aberdeen a 2-2 draw.

Dundee Utd had no game during the week but Aberdeen in a tremendous display dump Hearts 5-0. And the Tynecastle side are unable to hold Thistle on the Saturday.

But it is easy for the Jags — one up in the 11th minute. The ten men score another with two minutes remaining. Mid-week sees Thistle meet St Mirren, and draw 1-1.

For St Mirren striker Frank McGarvey a dream comes true — with a move to Liverpool. The young player, now with a £300,000 price tag on his shoulders says: "I

couldn't be happier. To move to a club like Liverpool must be every player's dream."

And a delighted Gregor Stevens leaves Motherwell for Leicester in a £150,000 deal. The sweeper says, as he boards a train South: "It's just great. Managers don't come any better than Jock Wallace."

"I know the set-up at Leicester and I will be very happy to play there."

SFA ask Aberdeen trio Doug Rougvie, Joe Harper and Bobby Clark to explain comments they made about the League Cup Final with Rangers last month.

All three made remarks about the ref being "conned" by Derek Johnstone which resulted in Rougvie being sent off.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST GATE: Rangers v Celtic, 52,650.
PREM DIV TOTAL ATT.: 64,450.
TOTAL GOALS: 33.
TABLE-TOPPERS: Dundee United.
HIGHEST SCORE: 8, Airdrie.



Ian Bowyer's header does the trick.



Top player title for Andy Ritchie.



Peter Barnes (left), £650,000-worth of talent . . .



and Gregor Stevens goes for £150,000.

1978-79 season in England and Scotland

Week ending MAY 12 . . .

Q.P.R. CHOP BURTENSHAW

THIS week, of course, all roads lead to Wembley — and all newspapers have their usual daily crop of horror-stories (equally usually turning out to be groundless) to strike chill into the hearts of rival supporters.

Before that great day, though, there are still vital League issues to be resolved. According to the original fixture-list, all should have been well-and-truly wrapped-up — but the foul winter weather has left a quite hefty backlog of postponed games still to be played. Inevitably, it's soon a case of "Bob's your Uncle!" as Paisley's men avenge a recent rare defeat by Aston Villa — and gain their 11th League title beyond any remote mathematical doubt.

By sheer coincidence — or does that super-efficient Anfield outfit plan their successes with a computer? — it matches to the day Bob Paisley's 40th anniversary of joining the club's ground-staff, and serving loyally, in one capacity or another, ever since.

A bumper Fourth Division crowd of 21,161 see Allan Clarke's Barnsley clinch promotion with a 2-1 win over Grimsby, who'll accompany them up.

Then Sheffield United have to join neighbours Wednesday in the Third Division — for the first time ever. And to think Sheffield, a century and more ago, was the home of the emerging new game of properly organised soccer. It's all go — and come — at relegated Q.P.R. Luckless Steve Burtenshaw — never given long enough to re-shape the side which has slipped so badly since finishing runners-up only three years ago — and suddenly gets the chop.

And guess who, within hours, bounces back into the manager's seat for the second time — after that stormy 28-day brief encounter in 1968. Why, who else but the likeable, controversial — and, sometimes, infuriating — Tommy Docherty.

Cup Final eve — and Liverpool are at it again. A win at Middlesbrough puts them, with a game to go, within one point of Leeds' First Division record — and that game, next week, is at Leeds! Same night, and there's a whopping 51,801 crowd to see Terry Venables' perky Palace clinch promotion and the Championship, with a 2-0 win over Burnley — both goals, despite non-stop pressure, nervily being delayed until the last quarter of an hour.

And, after only two seasons in the League, Wimbledon are up to the Third.

And, then, the Final itself. Brian Talbot — who was in the Ipswich side which beat Arsenal last season — and Frank Stapleton put The Gunners into a presumably safe 2-0 lead which lasts until the 87th minute. And then it all happens. McQueen pulls one back for Manchester United — and the game, seemingly dying on its feet, dramatically springs to life.

McIlroy levels in the 89th minute — and, if ever there was a certainty of extra-time, this was it.

Everyone thinks so — except Arsenal. A Brady-Rix-Sunderland master-move — into injury-time — gives them the Cup in the most dramatic end to a Final since Stan Matthews got his long-awaited winners' medal.

FOOTBALL IN CHAOS

A NO-SCORING draw between Rangers and Hibs in the Cup Final at Hampden throws Scottish football into chaos. The Cup replay has to come first and so League soccer, so badly hit by the winter "freeze", is once again a casualty.

The season is extended to the end of the month. The decision is taken because of the fixture jam facing the Ibrox club. And Rangers are also hard hit by injury.

Earlier in the week things were looking bright for Rangers. In Monday's match with Aberdeen their patience pays off and they pick up a win with two late goals.

Celtic in two games during the week wipe the frowns from the faces of their fans with two wins. Morton mark up Heart's ninth defeat in a row. They win 1-0 on Monday in front of a crowd of only 2,407 — the worst ever attendance at Tynecastle for a senior League match. At the end of the week Thistle are unlucky not to share the points when they travel up to Aberdeen. A last gasp goal from Dom Sullivan gives the Dons a 2-1 win.

In the Cup Final Peter McCloy is the Ibrox hero. Two magnificent saves in the closing minutes of a fast and hectic match stops Hibs from gaining their first Cup success since 1902.

Rangers, defending the trophy in their 34th Final live to fight again. It is not one of the greatest matches, goal-less games rarely are, but it is hard fought, exciting and punishing.

Only 50,610 fans go through the turnstiles — the smallest-ever crowd. The previous low was two years ago when Rangers and Celtic attracted only 54,252.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST GATE: 17,500 St. Mirren v Celtic.
PREM DIV TOTAL ATT: 93,000.
PREM DIV GOALS TOTAL: 11.
HIGHEST PREM SCORE: 2, Rangers, Aberdeen, Celtic.
TABLE TOPPERS: Celtic.
TOTAL GOALS: 3 divs — 30.
HIGHEST SCORE: 3 Cowdenbeath.



Steve Burtenshaw (left) not given long enough by Jim Gregory (right).



Peter McCloy saves Rangers.

Week ending MAY 19 . . .

ARSENAL'S POST-WEMBLEY SHOCK

THE Cup Final's over, and — as well as the British Championship and England's summer tour to come — there's still a sizeable backlog of postponed League games to be settled.

And there's also a potential headache for Arsenal within hours of their Wembley triumph.

For their brilliant Southern Irish trio of Brady, Stapleton, and O'Leary indicate they've still a yen to move on to lush pastures overseas — and, unless Arsenal can match any possible offers, they could find a mighty big hole in their team before too long.

The Doc's settling in at Q.P.R. — and already rumours are buzzing as to who will be going, and who will be coming, in the next few weeks. It's the traditional Docherty shake-up style — and is certainly guaranteed to keep relegated Rangers in the headlines!

Twenty-six thousand frenzied fans cheer on Elton John's Watford to a 4-0 hammering of Hull — and, with a second successive promotion, up into Division Two. And anyone want to bet their upwards progress will end there?

Forest win at Leeds to keep up their hopes of overtaking West Bromwich to the final runners-up spot — then, two days later, Leeds lose another home game.

And what a history-making game it is — for their conquerors are Liverpool.

As a result of their convincing 3-0 win, the Reds blot-out a couple more outstanding items in the record-books.

First, they chalk-up a total of 68 points, beating by one the previous First Division

best — achieved, ironically, by Leeds themselves ten years ago.

And then there's the incredibly low total of only 16 goals conceded in 42 games — just four at Anfield — to beat the previous record of 24 held jointly by Liverpool themselves (1968-69 and 1970-71) and Forest (1977-78).

Ray Clemence, too, is mean enough to strikers to end-up his League season with the astonishing tally of 28 clean-sheets.

And, down the other end from Ray, the second goal from Jimmy Case earns the side a sponsored £50,000 jackpot as the first team to bang in 84 goals.

Forest pip West Bromwich for the runners-up spot when a Francis goal gets both points at The Hawthorns — but, sadly for them, that's still eight in arrears of Liverpool.

And fourth-placed Everton are as many as 17 behind their neighbours.

But, whatever happens, you just can't keep Liverpool lads — even when they've left — out of the news.

And the first day of the British Championship sees Wales crushing the Scottish pride — and side — with a convincing 3-0 victory . . . all three goals coming from that former Anfield favourite, big John Toshack.

No such bonus, though, for the Irish — as early goals from Watson and Coppell see England cruise to a more comfortable win than the 2-0 margin might suggest.

But Keegan (on Hamburg duty) is absent — and, maybe by more than coincidence, so is much of England's sparkle.

ABERDEEN ARE TOP EARNERS

BY now most teams know their destiny for the next season, but the Premier Division title is still being battled for by old rivals Rangers and Celtic . . . and the intriguing tussle will be settled when the two meet.

Celtic stretch their lead over Rangers to three points when they play Hearts at Parkhead on the Monday. Provan, enjoying a fine first season with this club is the architect behind the vital goal.

His chip cross is headed on by Doyle to Conroy who heads the ball in. It is the only goal of the game but it keeps the pressure on Rangers.

The Ibrox club, with an amazing League fixture pile-up meet Hibs in the replay of the Cup Final. Both teams fade and the game stutters and stammers to end with the two teams still locked with a blank score-sheet.

The star men are all in defence. And many of the players are showing signs of the hard, long season. The winter seemed never-ending, so it seems is League football.

Aberdeen's manager Alex Ferguson offers his players a new wage deal which will put them among the highest paid in Scotland.

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"Any transfer requests will be granted. Any offers will be considered. We don't want any unsettled players on the staff."

A row breaks out over the date of the final League match between Rangers and Hibs. Earlier in the week the League decided on May 25 . . . the night before the England v Scotland clash at Wembley.

Hibs object saying the club is taking the players down to London for the game. Finally the date is switched to the last day of the month because of the situation in the Cup.



Alan Sunderland, Arsenal's Cup Final hero (below centre) is embraced — but other players are restless.



Alex Ferguson opens Aberdeen's coffers.

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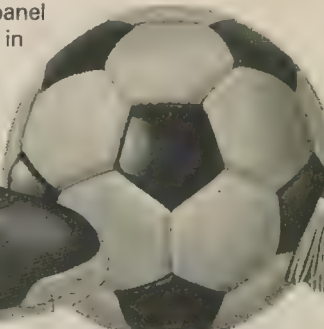
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PUT 39 footballers inside an aeroplane and fly them around Europe for ten days and you're bound to reach some conclusions about all of them.

It's an inescapable fact that living together for any length of time tests the character of any individual in a group of such proportions and this England squad were subjected to quite a test.

Three nights in Bulgaria, four more in Stockholm and three to wind up with in Vienna provided an exacting examination of Ron Greenwood's players — and they all came through with flying colours.

Despite an isolated newspaper report which said two senior play-

ers for every position. He believes he is within reach of the target.

As a bonus he has three top class goalkeepers in Ray Clemence, Peter Shilton and Joe Corrigan, but on the debit side he appears to be lacking cover for Dave Watson and Bob Latchford, while another couple of top line wingers would not come amiss.

The goal-less draws against Wales and Sweden when other members of the squad were drafted in, really went a long way to showing which of those players were up to international requirement and which were not.

Anderson, Currie, McDermott, Cunningham and Woodcock all

number one in the eyes of the Press and the public as well as the manager. He almost didn't make the dressing room in Sofia because of turning an ankle in training. But having overcome the physical doubt he then performed to perfection.

He was perhaps fortunate to lose a toss in Austria which decided whether he or Shilton should play the first-half.

As it transpired poor Shilton was subjected to a torrid barrage during which he conceded three goals and even Greenwood sympathised with his exposed 'keeper. The exercise of "showing the Austrians the two best goalkeepers in Europe" backfired.

ing with the ease of a gardener shelling peas and again it can only be re-iterated how unfortunate he is to be vying with Clemence.

As for Joe Corrigan his only game in ten days turned out to be a bizarre hour in Klagenfurt.

He was chosen for the 'B' international against the Austrians and after a 200-mile early morning train journey from Vienna, barely touched the ball in a one-sided game before a freak electric storm sent everyone scurrying from the field. Only a month previously five players had been struck by lightning in the same town.

Sixty minutes football in ten days and most of it inactive hardly gives one the right to an objective appraisal, suffice it to say Corrigan's vast and continuing progress at Maine Road has been reflected in the trust Ron Greenwood affords him at international level.

There was general delight, too, in the composed performances of the two blond young men who shared goalkeeping duties for the highly successful Under-21's who won both their matches in Pernik and Vasteras.

Against the Bulgarians Gary Bailey conceded a goal from a set piece but handled efficiently and looked nerveless for one so young.

Chris Woods, the remarkable young man from Q.P.R. who still awaits his League debut, looked

THE ENGLAND REPORT SUMMER '79

SHOOT looks back at England's recent tour of Bulgaria, Sweden and Austria and assesses the performances of the players in the squad

ers had been "spectacularly relaxed" claiming they'd overdone the after-match celebrations, this was a very happy tour.

England's current strength is in their togetherness. The ranks closed when that particular article appeared, Ron Greenwood, who had incidentally given the players concerned permission to have a drink, told them to ignore the matter, and the issue blew over.

That was a sure sign of a successful group. A similar situation developing with the Scots in Argentina 12 months before would have produced another scandal.

Despite defeat in the final match against Austria this was also a highly successful tour from a playing point of view.

The vital game was, of course, the one in Sofia and coming first the 3-0 victory set the tone.

England proved far superior to very disappointing opponents and now with Wembley matches to come against Denmark, Republic of Ireland and Bulgaria it will be nothing short of scandalous if they don't reach the Finals of the European Championships.

A win in Sofia, a draw in Stockholm and a defeat in Vienna give an illuminating picture of just how far England have come under the influence of Ron Greenwood.

Technically the side has advanced well and the teamwork achieved in recent triumphs over Northern Ireland, Scotland and Bulgaria was of high quality.

Significantly there is a buzz of confidence about everything the England squad is doing. In training everyone wants the ball. No one wants to come off when the whistle is blown and there is a genuine feeling of comradeship not always evident in previous England sides.

Greenwood was at pains to point out several times during the tour that he is trying to reach the situation where he has at least two

tried hard enough without convincing anyone that they are yet as good as the men in possession.

On the other hand Shilton, Cherry, and Hughes played like men who have the ability and the experience, but fewer opportunities because they shadow supreme players.

Let's have a look then at the individual contributions of the tour members and the conclusions reached:

Goalkeeper is the easiest and yet most difficult position for Ron Greenwood.

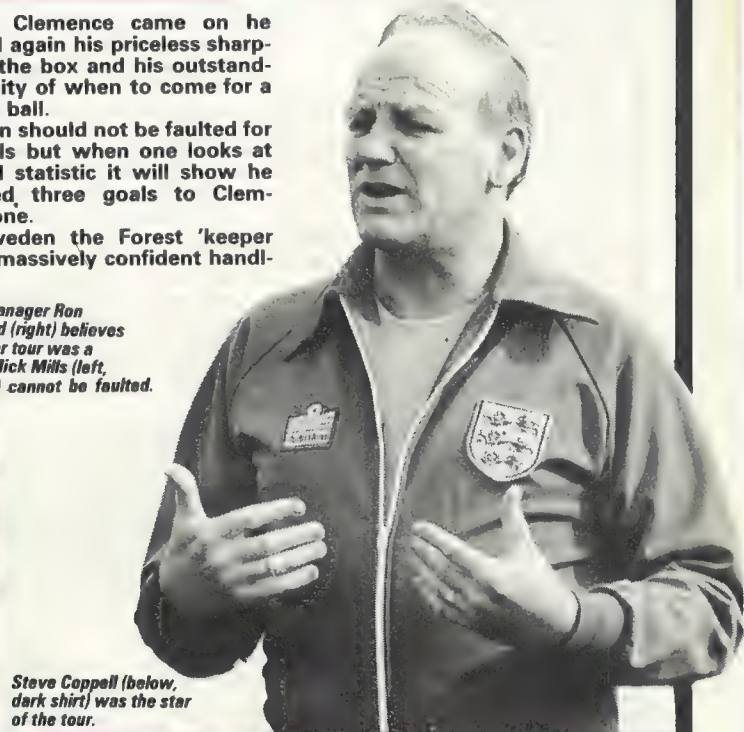
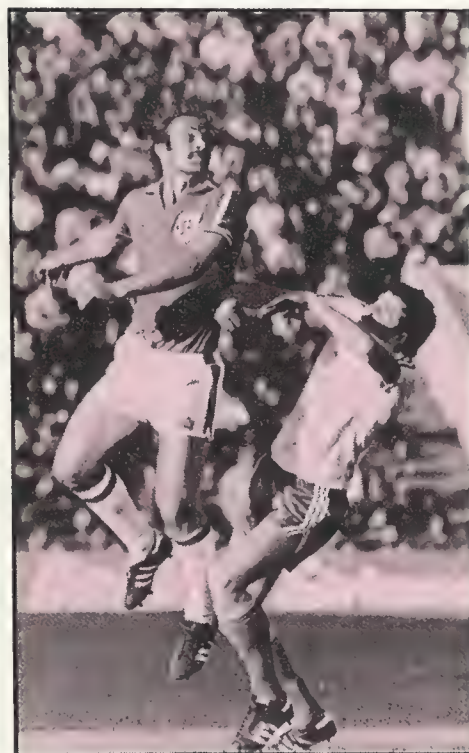
If anything the tour enabled Ray Clemence to reaffirm his status as

When Clemence came on he revealed again his priceless sharpness in the box and his outstanding quality of when to come for a through ball.

Shilton should not be faulted for the goals but when one looks at the cold statistic it will show he conceded three goals to Clemence's one.

In Sweden the Forest 'keeper looked massively confident hand-

England manager Ron Greenwood (right) believes the summer tour was a success. Mick Mills (left, dark shirt) cannot be faulted.



continued overleaf

no less assured and despite also being beaten once made some magnificent saves. The future is in good hands and what again was immensely pleasing was that Bailey and Woods were inseparable on tour.

England now have five players who have caps as full-backs at senior level. Unquestionably though Greenwood's favourite pairing is that of Phil Neal and Mick Mills.

Neal still has his critics. He suffered more than most from the lack of air in the stuffy atmosphere of the Vassil Levsky Stadium in Bulgaria, and this at times affected his pace and powers of recovery.

In Vienna he kept battling away without looking totally convincing, yet perhaps that is Phil Neal. He has held his place at Liverpool and with England despite persistent rumblings that he wasn't quite up to scratch.

Mills on the other hand has left his doubters behind. For total commitment to his country's cause, Mills cannot be faulted.

With the game in the bag at 3-0 in Sofia he was still to be found making tackles as though his life depended on winning the ball.

Perhaps his zest for work is inspired by the knowledge that waiting in the wings is the most promising full-back reared in England since Ray Wilson.

Reference of course is to Ken Sansom already bloodied by Greenwood against Wales and a near certainty for the future.

There are those now who are dying to see Sansom win a regular place, and a large body of opinion believes Mills should be moved to right-back to accommodate the Crystal Palace starlet.

This tour proved that he is a left-back and not a right-back which is where he was asked to play in both Pernik and Vasteras.

This was done because it was felt he was more adaptable than Derek Statham his stocky young rival from West Brom.

Statham, built like a tree trunk



Peter Shilton played twice on the tour — here he is seen in action against Sweden.

and just as solid, was hailed as an international of the future even before Sansom, and although currently taking a back seat is still likely to get the call one day.

He didn't put a foot wrong during the entire tour and once he has improved the attacking side of his game will be a positive contender for a place.

It was a disappointing trip for Viv Anderson. The Forest youngster, who made history by becoming the first black player to represent England last November, was given his chance in the tiny World Cup stadium in Solna against Swe-

den. But like more experienced colleagues that day he discovered the gulf between club and international football.

Having just enjoyed his best-ever season, when he helped Forest to European Cup and League Cup winners medals, however, it might not have been a bad thing for him to get a roasting like that.

In contrast, Trevor Cherry, who has never won accolades, showed he is more than just a stand-in.

Although playing out of position at left-back in Stockholm he showed the necessary experience to cope with the situation.

At Leeds he is regarded as Mr. Reliable. He also chips in with seven or eight goals a season. Given a regular England slot he would do the same.

The one England defender who probably above everyone else has risen to world standing is Dave Watson, now with Werder Bremen.

The colossal figure of Watson leaping to clear his lines, loping up the field to cause havoc at corners, or simply stretching those long legs to make an interception, has become vital to England's cause.

Three goals in five internationals would be a good enough rate for a striker, but coming from a central defender it is an enormous bonus.

His only blemish on the tour — and he played in all three matches — was in arguing with the referee in Vienna and consequently being caught out of position when Pezzey headed the winner.

The surprise of the tour was strangely perhaps the man who has played at Watson's left hand so many times in the past, and who many felt had gone just for the trip — Emlyn Hughes.

If the idea was that Hughes was being put out to graze in Stockholm someone forgot to tell him.

When he careered over 50 yards to strike a mighty shot against the crossbar more than one cynic observed that he was trying to go out in a blaze of glory. Yet the following day Hughes was not only cursing his luck but talking of what he might do next year in Italy, and three years hence in the World Cup Finals in Spain!

His young pretender at Anfield and international level Phil Thompson shares his tutor's love for the game but is still learning how to live at the very highest level.

He can be found wanting in the heat of the moment as he was against Scotland when he missed Graham's centre and Wark scored, and as he was when beaten by the exceptional pace of the Austrians.

Real mark

The one young central defender to make a real mark on the tour was the Ipswich giant Terry Butcher.

Unheard of at the start of last season he has made great progress and along with Russell Osman minimised the effect of losing Allan Hunter for a full year and Kevin Beattie for most of it.

In Vasteras Butcher was one of the stars of the show.

Well seasoned judges like Bobby Robson, Jimmy Armfield, Don Howe and Dave Sexton, all present at the game, echoed their appreciation for a young stopper, who imprinted his mark on the game in a highly positive manner.

He looked an international of the future.

Osman was not such a spectacular success but he didn't do much wrong either and after a long year in which he has probably had to assume more responsibility than he would normally expect at his



Phil Thompson is slowly but surely establishing himself in the back four.



Trevor Brooking takes on Austria's captain Robert Sarajin in Vienna.



Above: A tower of strength at centre-half — Dave Watson.
Right: One for the future — Ipswich Town's Under-21 defender Terry Butcher.

age, it has not been a bad effort.

Gifted at ball games — he played rugby union for England school-boys — Osman has a lot of talent.

A similar comment can be made about Billy Gilbert of Crystal Palace. Before the tour we knew that he was a whole-hearted type who loves his football and is part of the steam-rolling youth side that has grown up into a First Division side in two years.

With one or two old heads to guide them the Palace youngsters have become the most exciting company of kids since Busby's Babes and Gilbert typifies their maturing presence in the game.

The day before the game in Vienna he was invited to train with the senior squad and relished rubbing shoulders with Shilton and Hughes, Mills and Thompson, Keegan and Brooking. He probably learnt as much in that hour as he did on the rest of the tour.

The other young defender to make the trip was the one with the most famous name — Billy Wright.

Uncle Tommy, once an Everton and England full-back and namesake Billy, once the nation's captain and hero, will be watching this sturdy lad with interest.

At Everton he has played full-back and centre-half, and in the match in Pernik he was cast alongside Billy Gilbert — playing mostly on his left.

At times he wasn't sure where he was supposed to be and while making the best of the situation one felt he needed to be pointed in a certain direction and told not to deviate from it for a while.

Another perhaps far reaching decision reached by Ron Greenwood during the tour was his preference for a 4-2-4 system.

Against Sweden when only one winger, Laurie Cunningham, was played it was apparent that the side had fewer options. Cunningham tried his best to operate down both flanks but the rhythm and fluency of the formation, employed so successfully against Bulgaria with Coppell and Barnes key

members, had gone.

So it would seem that the international futures of Coppell and to a lesser extent Barnes are assured.

The hit of the tour (and that includes Keegan) was Stevie Coppell.

Coppell is one of those men who responds to the occasion.

It is more that coincidence that Coppell has scored so many goals recently from no more than five yards out. He possesses razor sharp reflexes and if anyone is going to get a knock-in goal resulting from a goalkeeping mistake it will be Coppell.

What more can one say about Keegan? He knew what he was doing when he left the easy route to success with Liverpool for the comparatively anonymous autobahns into Hamburg.

Keegan told us all he wanted new mountains to climb. There were doubters but Kev never wavered.

Status

If anyone was ever an object lesson to his profession it is Kevin Keegan. He handles his new found status quite brilliantly. Never flustered, he now grants interviews in German as well as English, and always has something to say.

As Brazil had Pele, Holland Cruyff, West Germany had Beckenbauer and Argentina Kempes, so England now have Keegan.

So often he has scored the first goal of a match — remember Denmark, Northern Ireland and Bulgaria, as well as that dazzling effort against Italy. He has a scoring record in recent internationals which bares comparison with anyone and provided he doesn't burn himself out Keegan can be the man to lead England into the next World Cup.

Peter Barnes is a more complex story. Oozing ability he is another of those who plays more consistently for country than club.

Barnes freely admits he enjoys playing for England, being sur-



Continued overleaf

rounded by higher quality footballers. He doesn't always find it easy to raise the same enthusiasm at Maine Road. Maybe people have expected too much of him since those glorious early days when he seemed incapable of doing wrong.

The secret may lie in the training. With England he is encouraged to run at people — after all that's what he's best at. With City he doesn't have the same scope. Food for thought for the training staff in Manchester.

Because of his disappointing club form Barnes's international place has been threatened by Laurie Cunningham, who was consistently good for West Bromwich Albion before joining Real Madrid.

Yet here perhaps is another example of players being suited to one level and not another, for in his two full appearances for Greenwood's side the Black Pearl has failed to live up to his reputation.

In Sweden he made the perfect start 'skinning' the left-back and giving him anxious thoughts of the next 85 minutes to come with a dazzling burst of speed and ball control. Yet he never capitalised on that psychological advantage and tended to fade. It is too early to judge or make harsh assessments but Cunningham needs to give a little more.

The Under-21 side played without a natural winger in both their games Graham Rix being the nearest qualifier.

Here is an infuriating talent. With so much sleight of foot Rix should be a thorn in any side, but at the moment he drifts in and out of a game.

The cross he supplied for Sunderland's Wembley winner will live long in the memory — longer perhaps than Rix himself.

He was largely anonymous in Vasteras, but was doing better in the B game in Klegfurt when the elements took a hand.

The skill is there. We just like to see more of it — especially over 90 minutes.

THE ENGLAND REPORT SUMMER '79

The same could be said of Glenn Hoddle. Essentially a different type of player he can strike at the heart. His elegant poise, telling passes and thunderous shooting mark him as a man one always has to watch, yet again he gives the occasional impression of disinterest.

This may be just his languid approach but when one sees an exciting art form like this the desire is for more — not less.

Hoddle and Rix both have a long way to go before they are ready for higher honours — the secret may be provided by the choice of the workers to surround them.

One of those worker bees getting very close to the honey pot is little Steve Williams of Southampton. He had an excellent tour and needs only to maintain that



improvement for further recognition.

A biter in the tackle he has a capacity for work that shames almost everyone around him, and the fact he is needle thin may be a good thing in that he makes up for lack of pounds weight in effort.

Let it not be misconstrued that he is all effort and no skill though. He plays an intelligent game, fostered no doubt by liaison with Alan Ball at The Dell, and his rasping, though unsuccessful shot in Pernik left the post shuddering and the feeling he should score more goals than he does.

Gary Owen has never gone short on goals in his brief career forged at Manchester City and now to be continued at West Brom.

And here is another youngster whose total involvement will never be in question.

The passion these two show for the game is almost frightening to behold. Owen's game like that of Peter Barnes, has suffered amid the general upheaval at Maine Road. His move is a wise step and the next twelve months could be a watershed for Owen. He has the chance to show us all that his early promise in the game can be fulfilled. The tour did nothing in terms of proving anything other than what we already knew that here is a player of infinite drive, blossoming skill but questionable class at the very tip of the ladder.

At The Hawthorns he will link with a player who has come to the fore in recent months yet could well have been one of those to spend a lifetime known as a good honest pro but nothing more.

Bryan Robson is a quiet footballer revealing a maximum of efficiency and a minimum of extroversion.

Until it was pointed out that he was one of the most valuable ball-winners in the game, and not the worst passer of a ball in the First Division, he was a fairly unsung member of Ron Atkinson's successful side.

Whichever shrewd judge it was who brought Robson's gifts to the attentions of the England management team deserves a pat on the back. He scored twice on the tour, once for the Under-21's and also after five minutes of that wash-out in the B international. He also won an awful lot of ball, a considerable amount of credit, and several new admirers.

It was a good tour, too, for Ray Wilkins. He deserved it after a winter of discontent at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea's frailty as a First Division force was the last thing Wilkins needed at this stage of his career. He was also newly-married, had three managers in next to no time, and not surprisingly became so disenchanted he was thinking more of a transfer than playing his best football.

England helped him put all that to the back of his mind. He excelled in the British Championship, played in all three games abroad (coming on as a sub in Sweden) and scored his first international goal in Vienna.

With a change of club and a surge in confidence he can claim a place of his own.

It is difficult to know what to say about Tony Currie. He probably possesses more skill than not only Wilkins but most of the other England players. Yet still he doesn't convince anyone that he is giving everything he has.

Dictate

Currie has yet to take a match by the scruff of the neck. He can hit devastating balls over 50 yards, he can dictate the pace, he can burst the net from any angle and almost any distance — yet he never does all these things consistently.

Perhaps he finds playing for England too foreign to the way he has been playing for Leeds. Perhaps he needs to be told he's leading the orchestra and not merely playing second fiddle.

Whatever the reasons the feeling is that we haven't yet seen the best of Tony Currie — and time is running out.

Currie was visibly disappointed to be pulled off during the Stockholm match — as he was against Wales to be replaced by Trevor Brooking — yet perhaps the one with most reason for complaint was Terry McDermott.

He ran for only 45 minutes of the tour — in that same international — and must have been choked when told Ray Wilkins would take his place in the second-half.

Perhaps there were too many players available to Greenwood — especially as he promised them all a game at some stage — but it is galling to have such little time in which to prove one's self.

In the British Championship the Liverpool man did exceptionally well as a full-runner in Belfast, quite well against Wales and could claim to be unlucky not to make the team-sheet against Scotland.

Now he must be wondering about the future if that was not good enough and his first-half display in Stockholm merited replacement. Trevor Brooking is clearly a fixture. His telepathic understanding with Kevin Keegan is one



Forest team-mates Trevor Francis (left) and Tony Woodcock have still to establish themselves for England.

Bob Latchford (above, left) gains Ron Greenwood's approval despite mounting criticism. Luther Blissett (right) has still to bridge the gap between club and international football. Cyrille Regis (below, right) must find more consistency to win a full cap.



of England's principal weapons.

Brooking is capable of anything. His control is impeccable, his final pass inevitably accurate to the inch and his timing immaculate.

If he is a little one-paced then who cares so long as the product of the work is as beneficial to the side as it has been in recent internationals.

Another young player to create a favourable impression was Aston Villa's Gordon Cowans.

So exceptionally frail he looks as if a puff of wind would blow him over, Cowans is nonetheless a doughty little competitor whose endearing quality is pure skill.

He can be incisive in his passing, effective in his interceptions and no mean performer around the penalty-area.

There were plenty of knowing grins and appreciative nods of the head from people who should know when Cowans played in Vasteras. He was dubbed the best player by many good judges and is certainly taking great strides forward.

So to the out-and-out strikers and seven men who notched over a hundred goals between them last season.

By his own standards of the previous year Tony Woodcock had a disappointing season at Forest. Perhaps he had become a little better known by the markers who had suffered at his hands before. Perhaps he also felt the loss of Peter Withe alongside him more than we suspected.

This was a stutter of a tour for Tony. Ten minutes in Bulgaria, a trying time in Sweden and a frustrating trip with the B squad was hardly destined to enhance his reputation at international level. Like so many others the next 12 months could prove crucial to his ambitions. Trevor Francis is a different proposition altogether. He has a right to feel that his efforts deserve a better stage.

Two years ago he was the star of the show in Brazil's Maracana



Kevin Reeves (Norwich City).

Stadium. Inexplicably he was left out of the next match by Don Revie.

Now, despite his million pound transfer, his consistent record as a goalscorer, a winning header in a European Cup Final, and Bob Latchford's dismal form, he still finds himself no more than a substitute. Life is not always fair and equal.

Since joining Clough's crusade at the City Ground, Francis looks to have lost a little weight, and he now goes like a greyhound from the trap. His speed off the mark is devastating and it was a pity he didn't score from at least one of the chances he had in the three full internationals (he came on as sub in two of them).

People will say time is on his side but Francis needs to be given a regular chance to prove his ability at the highest level.

As for poor Latchford he was the one man who had a completely disastrous tour.

He is so short on confidence at present it isn't true. Ron Greenwood has loyally stood by the man he feels is so vital to his system, even to the point of defending him before a question was asked after the Bulgarian match.

In that game Latchford missed two chances he would normally have swallowed — and they were typical of his present form.

When goals failed to come against Sweden, Greenwood told the Press "I told you so," referring to his preference for Latchford in the side as a battering ram and target man, rather than Francis as a swifter and more in-form player.

But even the England manager knows that if the Everton man doesn't tuck away the chances soon he will have to be replaced.

Of those queueing up to take his place the ones who did most to press their claims on tour were Kevin Reeves and John Deehan.

Greenwood has long been an admirer of Deehan's and after a season of injuries and frustration at Villa he was back to his sharpest in Pernik.

He laid on two of the goals and gave the sort of performance which suggests he can lead any attack with style and panache.

Reeves has come a long way since leaving Bournemouth for Norwich — and we're not talking geographically.

His two goals in Pernik were exquisitely taken and his heading ability and forte for shielding the ball under pressure were being talked about long after the game.

Physique

Cyrille Regis continues to baffle. For such a spectacular specimen of the human frame he doesn't really put his body about enough.

He has the physique to ward off any challenge, to burst through gaps, to ram unstoppable shots and fearsome headers past the best goalkeepers in the world, yet too often he is knocked off a ball that should be his by right.

His scoring record is excellent, but one suspects Cyrille is only seen to his best advantage when chasing the long through ball and not in any other pattern.

His black colleague Luther Blissett clearly has some way to go before bridging the gap between club and international football. To be fair, of course, it can't be easy to play for Watford in the Third Division and then go off on a tour abroad with the cream of English football.

Luther is a terrific tourist and a proven goalscorer at Third Division level. Whether or not he has what it takes to scale higher peaks remains to be seen.

Those then are the verdicts on a squad that was highly professional in everything it did both on and off the field.

Ron Greenwood said it had been a highly successful and happy tour, with lessons to learn from the defeat in Austria, and a lot of good memories to take home. He believes the future is bright and that this time next year England will be making a serious bid to become European Champions.

In next week's SHOOT

Colour: At home with Manchester United star Jimmy Greenhoff and his family + Spanish Champions Real Madrid team-group + Ian Bowyer (Nottm. Forest) + Byron Stevenson (Leeds) + Dave Johnson (Liverpool) + Focus on David Mills (West Brom).

Features: Will Forest Win Anything Next Season? + Club Spotlight on Real Madrid + League stars reveal how they spent the close-season + John Connolly (Newcastle) and Gary Rowell (Sunderland) featured in Big North-East Crosstalk + Arsenal's Malcolm Macdonald (below)



talking about his recent injury problems, his summer in Sweden and aims for next season + Mick Doyle — back in the First Division with Stoke + Pat Hegarty (Dundee United) and Billy Pirie (Dundee) who kick-off the new season as Premier Division rivals + John McDonald (Rangers) + John McAlle (Wolves) + Tony Waddington (new boss of Crewe) and Doug Collins (manager of Rochdale) + final part of our Review of the 1978-79 Season + Argentina star Tarantini and what he didn't say while playing for Birmingham City + Regular favourites, such as Ray Clemence, Ray Wilkins, Gordon Hill, Danny McGrain, World Wide, News Desk, Quiz, Goal-lines, in SHOOT next week!



Kevin Keegan is an object lesson to any player.

HOW CLUBS FARED IN

THE old adage that fans will watch a winning team whatever their status was underlined last season when more than 24 million people poured through the turnstiles of Football League clubs.

As ever, a trip to Anfield, Old Trafford and Goodison Park was the Saturday afternoon ritual for large numbers of football followers.

But the less hallowed soccer shrines of Oakwell, Vicarage Road and Vetch Field were regularly being filled.

You do not need to be a sporting mastermind to recognise that Barnsley, Watford and Swansea have been among the less fashionable clubs. But last season they attracted gates that were the envy of many Second Division clubs.

Barnsley, so often the target for Northern cynics in search of easy meat, have been revitalised by player manager Allan Clarke.

He has injected more professionalism — in the best sense of the word — into the club. The players, for instance, do not have to wash their own kit anymore, and have responded by winning promotion.

The renaissance at Oakwell has been reflected by the gates — 254,102 fans saw the 23 League matches there last season. That is a bigger aggregate than 13 Second Division clubs, and includes a

21,261 crowd for the final home match of the season against Grimsby.

In the lower Divisions, only Watford and Swansea, both promoted from Division Three, enjoyed better gates.

The traditionally conservative Watford public reacted enthusiastically to Graham Taylor's team, which carried on where they left

off the previous season — winning matches and admirers with equal regularity.

In addition to being the biggest away draw in the bottom two Divisions Watford had the best home support. A total of 332,003 fans flocked to Vicarage Road, where the lowest League gate all season was 10,568 and the biggest 26,397.

Swansea, who have also leap-

frogged from the Fourth to the Second in two seasons, captured the imagination of a South Wales public traditionally fed a diet of Rugby Union. 316,152 saw them at The Vetch.

The clubs who continue to keep the bank manager happy are inevitably found near the summit of English football.

Although marginally more people attended home matches at Manchester United than Liverpool — 975,029 to 974,541 — Bob Paisley's League Champions were seen by another 775,895 fans in their 21 away games.

Despite the awesome shadow of their all-conquering Merseyside rivals, Everton attracted nearly three quarters of a million spectators to Goodison. Although in decline, Manchester City were watched by more than 760,000 fans at Maine Road.

Nottingham Forest, whose average home gate was 12,805 when Brian Clough arrived in the 1975-76 season, packed 621,330 into the City Ground for League matches.

And Tottenham's bold investment in Argentinians Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa paid dividends for everyone. In addition to the 732,932 fans who went to White Hart Lane during the season, they were, behind only Liverpool, the team every supporter wanted to see.



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FIRST DIVISION			SECOND DIVISION			THIRD DIVISION			FOURTH DIVISION		
	Home	Away		Home	Away		Home	Away		Home	Away
Arsenal	763,793	595,970	Blackburn R.	181,449	288,484	Blackpool	129,887	130,327	Bournemouth	86,452	86,805
Aston Villa	689,589	576,368	Brighton	465,035	323,859	Brentford	171,458	129,532	Aldershot	95,752	96,715
Birmingham C.	423,439	547,188	Bristol Rovers	159,461	242,350	Bury	86,991	119,056	Barnsley	254,102	144,491
Bolton W.	520,216	531,488	Burnley	225,714	296,214	Carlisle U.	119,695	130,597	Bradford C.	90,249	91,473
Bristol City	468,428	519,047	Cambridge U.	143,822	250,211	Chester	93,206	120,279	Crewe Alex.	45,885	82,200
Chelsea	520,426	554,570	Cardiff City	194,163	263,270	Chesterfield	110,916	139,444	Darlington	41,568	94,334
Coventry C.	475,388	532,162	Charlton Ath.	200,822	272,484	Colchester U.	78,630	132,855	Doncaster R.	68,996	88,250
Derby Co.	452,654	524,867	Crystal Palace	489,173	328,865	Exeter City	101,385	143,629	Grimsby Town	150,140	119,092
Everton	744,571	648,732	Fulham	212,844	251,458	Gillingham	164,299	132,675	Halifax Town	41,880	85,648
Ipswich T.	455,125	513,462	Leicester C.	297,933	261,308	Hull City	120,471	132,271	Hartlepool U.	68,921	93,192
Leeds Utd.	580,291	641,741	Luton Town	184,640	255,769	Lincoln C.	72,868	131,250	Hereford U.	77,492	89,214
Liverpool	974,541	775,895	Millwall	147,033	243,754	Mansfield T.	118,484	127,552	Huddersfield T.	83,929	100,168
Manchester C.	760,256	591,612	Newcastle U.	437,525	302,859	Oxford United	106,883	129,397	Newport Co.	85,816	84,669
Manchester U.	975,029	637,829	Notts County	194,894	270,107	Peterborough U.	106,711	120,219	Northampton T.	66,590	83,974
Middlesbrough	387,649	496,425	Oldham	147,948	251,289	Plymouth Arg.	173,099	138,532	Portsmouth	232,840	115,012
Norwich City	375,364	486,737	Orient	153,787	260,032	Rotherham U.	102,727	135,556	Port Vale	75,595	94,512
Nottingham F.	621,330	673,335	Preston N. E.	254,460	242,903	Sheffield W.	249,783	174,112	Reading	175,172	99,272
Q.P.R.	342,021	497,233	Sheffield U.	343,111	271,896	Shrewsbury T.	140,267	161,692	Rochdale	40,650	87,256
Southampton	447,921	516,084	Stoke City	401,619	324,614	Southend U.	152,024	137,950	Scunthorpe U.	62,585	91,681
Tottenham	732,932	693,212	Sunderland	534,541	310,812	Swansea City	316,152	181,194	Stockport Co.	95,271	90,396
West Bromwich A.	556,864	592,532	West Ham U.	541,343	377,813	Swindon Town	183,418	144,940	Torquay U.	61,397	88,236
Wolverhampton W.	436,722	558,060	Wrexham	241,906	262,872	Tranmere R.	50,122	126,153	Wigan Ath.	154,125	109,670
TOTALS	12,704,349	12,704,549	TOTALS	6,153,223	6,153,223	Walsall	93,079	140,337	Wimbledon	85,372	101,426
						Watford	332,003	215,009	York City	67,518	90,610
						TOTALS	3,374,558	3,374,558	TOTALS	2,308,297	2,308,297

Left: Manchester United's Joe Jordan outjumps Roy McFarland in Derby's defence. Right: Peter Taylor (Spurs) and Alan Kennedy (Liverpool) compete for the ball. Below: Watford's Luther Blissett evades Peter Skipper's (Hull) tackle. Bottom Right: Ian Walsh heads Palace in front against Burnley last season.

DIVISIONAL TOTALS

First Division.....	12,704,549
Second Division	6,153,223
Third Division.....	3,374,558
Fourth Division	2,308,297



I AM pleased to inform Scotland's manager Jock Stein, Rangers' manager John Greig, and the Ibrox fans that I am alive and kicking!

Rumours of my passing from this life are quite untrue.

You think I'm jesting? Well, just listen to this.

I've just had one of the biggest frights of my life after finding myself involved in a real-life drama on holiday in Benidorm.

The Spanish papers were full of stories about police attempts to capture the terrorists, who were launching indiscriminate bomb attacks on Spanish holiday resorts.

Benidorm was bristling with anxious police and security men, clearly intent on trusting no one. Holidaymakers stepped out of their hotels at their peril.

No sooner had my wife, Marion, and I arrived than two bombs exploded on our holiday beach.

Fortunately, we were not down there at the time, but generally the first thing we do on holiday is to make for the sea.

It is alarming to know that terrorists are prowling around causing distress among holiday-makers, men, women and children, for a political cause.

So, believe me, it's great to be back home in Scotland after a fortnight away.

As the world knows by now we're

was the guy who talked me out of moving to the States and I'm glad he did. I admit last season was a poor one for me but I'm happy to stay at Ibrox and I'll be going all out in the new season to re-capture some of my old form.

A price tag of £500,000 was banded around my name when I mentioned a transfer two years ago but I knew that was a ridiculous figure. But when you see the prices being paid for players nowadays the £500,000 seems quite modest, doesn't it?

Frankly, these transfer fees have gone daft. It's a frightening thought that if it had taken their fancy Nottingham Forest could have bought half a dozen Scottish clubs for the money they dished out for Francis.

In recent weeks eight players have moved clubs in Scotland for around £100,000, yet added together they still don't equal the Francis fee.

The pressures these inflated rates put on managers could stifle the game in my opinion.

It's like buying a house. You sell for say £100,000 but when you look

around for a replacement you find it will cost £100,000 plus to buy an average player.

There's always transfer talk in professional football and Ibrox is no exception. By the time you read this Derek Parlane could be living and playing his football in France.

I've no idea what sort of transfer money they were talking about but I'll bet John Greig will be staggered by the asking price of any player he enquires about to replace Derek.

What makes the whole situation more crazy is that the people who negotiate the big money deals freely admit that the prices are outrageous and create their own false market.

This was underlined when Preston sold Mick Robinson to Manchester City for £765,000 recently. Preston manager Nobby Stiles admitted it was an outrageous sum for a young player untried and untested in big League football. Having said that, I wish Mick all the best.

One of my big disappointments was that Rangers did not figure in the draw recently for next season's

European Cup. Our arch rivals Celtic will be representing Scotland in the tournament and they will face tough opposition from teams like Liverpool and holders Nottingham Forest.

While Billy McNeill has built up a promising Celtic side, I think the big guns of Europe will be too much for them. Billy can only hope for the luck of a good draw if he wants to get very far in the tournament.

We surprised Europe last season by dismissing Juventus and PSV Eindhoven two of the major names in Continental football.

We stumbled against Cologne, so we're determined to make it up to our fans this season with a good run in the Cup-Winners' Cup.

Here's hoping for a good start to the new season and success in the warm-up tournament at Ibrox, sponsored by one of the breweries.

The stiffest opposition here could easily come from newly-promoted Brighton. They proved their ability last season and I don't think they will be easy.

As I say it's good to be at home away from the beach bombers.

Derek Johnstone

TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK

'Bombs burst on my beach'

expecting twins in the Autumn and we had been looking forward to a brief spot of rest and relaxation when we flew out to the Spanish resort.

Staying at home seems to be unfashionable these days as far as some other top players are concerned. Every day you read about someone or other being transferred or jetting across the Atlantic to play

in the North American League.

The list of British players doing this gets larger every year.

Two years ago I was tempted to go as well — and stay there. It seemed a good idea at the time but I have changed my mind completely since.

I look forward to the summer break even if it gets shorter every season. I still feel a player needs a rest for the good of his game. He needs a spell away playing and all the pressures that go with being a professional.

A break can help to revitalise and recharge the batteries. He goes back to the new season much fresher and with more appetite for the game.

That's the way I see it, obviously not everybody agrees. Trevor Francis, the first £1 million player, enjoys the best of both worlds.

He has a thumping good contract with Nottingham Forest, which includes permission to play in America this summer.

John Greig, the Rangers manager,



Derek beats Celtic's George McCluskey.



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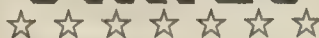
Unlucky Peter

DON'T tell Peter Anderson any hard luck stories because the Sheffield United and Tampa Bay Rowdies midfielder can probably top yours.

In the last game of last season he broke a collarbone playing for United. He flew out to Tampa and was almost 100 per cent fit at the end of June.

Playing golf one afternoon, he hurt the same shoulder... so he had to wait even longer before his first kick in the NASL this summer.

SOCCER in the STATES



No gas, few fans

ATTENDANCES of 16,000 at the Los Angeles Aztecs may not be what you'd expect after the arrival of Johan Cruyff. That is still four times the Aztecs' previous average and remember, there is gas... sorry, petrol rationing on the West Coast. Once this ends and everyone is mobile again, gates are likely to rise to nearer 30,000.

On the ball

ALAN Ball was an instant success with Vancouver Whitecaps after travelling over three thousand miles from Philadelphia to join his new club.

In his debut against California Surf, Ball scored the winning goal from a penalty six seconds before the end of the second period of overtime.

It was Ball's first goal of the season, and came after the Surf's Paul Cahill was adjudged to have handled in the area.

The win put Vancouver back on top of the National Conference's Western Division, after a brief spell of superiority by Los Angeles.

Bourne three

JEFF Bourne, ex-Derby and Crystal Palace striker, scored a hat-trick for Atlanta Chiefs against Minnesota Kicks.

He scored another against California to move up to fifth place in the NASL scoring list. But Giorgio Chinaglia of the Cosmos continues to set a blistering pace at the top.

He now has 12 goals in 18 games, plus six assists.

Learner Neeskens

JOHAN Neeskens (right) says it may take a while to find his best position in the Cosmos' line up.

Says the Dutch star: "The last couple of years I played in the centre of midfield with Barcelona and before that, on the right with Ajax.



TREVOR Francis made a start to repairing Detroit Express' miserable season with a goal against San Diego that helped end a six-game losing streak, the worst in the club's history.

The Express won 3-2 and headed back to the Mid-West confident that the Forest star is going to turn round their season again.

Francis, who made his season's debut against Los Angeles less than 24 hours after stepping-off the plane, said: "I was a bit tired in the second-half of that match.

"But I said then that the team weren't in too bad a shape. I still see no reason why we shouldn't have a good season."

Detroit are behind Houston and Chicago in the American Conference's Central Division. But they wouldn't have to stretch themselves too much to qualify for the

"I'll play wherever the Cosmos want me, but I don't know how long it will take me to adjust. I hope I don't have too many problems.

"I'd never played on Astro turf before and it makes my legs sore. But other players have said it's only natural to feel that way at first. The ball moves a little faster and it bounces funny."



Firmani's aim

THE New Jersey Americans claim they are paying new coach Eddie Firmani a lot more than he was getting at the Cosmos.

FRANCIS WANTS A SEASON TO REMEMBER

play-offs as a 'wild card' side. They thumped Fort Lauderdale 8-2 to pull back some ground.

There was a reception waiting for Francis at Detroit airport and a local car dealer handed over the keys of a new white Cadillac with the letters 'TF' on the driver's side. Unfortunately, the player can't take it back to England with him.

The money Francis will get from Detroit this summer could boost his overall pay this year to £250,000. But the American club know they'll get every penny's worth of the £75,000 or so they're paying him.

Says Francis: "When I first came over here last year, some of the players in England said 'You're going to have a real holiday. It will be so easy for you there.'

"Well, I don't believe there is such a thing as an easy game in football. You have to do all the work and all the running before things go your way.

"I was impressed with the NASL last season and this year, I'm expecting it to be even better. I was lying in my hotel room before the game in Los Angeles, thinking about all the great players over here now.

"There's Johan Neeskens at the Cosmos, Cruyff with the Aztecs — yes, soccer in the States is here to stay."

Francis, to the chagrin of Yankee fans, won't be back for some time, if ever, after this season. The ending of the loan system means, to the relief of Brian Clough, that his

million pound star won't be able to keep tripping across the Atlantic.

Says the player: "I'm disappointed, but I knew it might happen. I suppose I'll miss it but then I never get that upset about things. It's just my way. Even when I get kicked to hell on the field sometimes, I don't lose control."

Francis is amazed at the fame that his European Cup-winning goal against Malmo has brought him.

"I couldn't believe how many people wanted my autograph on the England tour. In Bulgaria, Austria, Sweden — everyone knew who I was. And all because of that one goal.

"They even announced on the plane coming over to the States that I was on board. They looked after me superbly."

One of the hazards of his success has been an enforced separation from his pregnant wife Helen. Before she joined him in the States recently, they had been apart for almost a month.

The arrival of the Forest striker has already had its effect on the Detroit team, and now that he's had his first taste of success with Forest, Francis is hungry for more.

If he can continue to inspire his team-mates, the next bit of silverware he picks up could be the NASL Soccer Championship.

He sees no reason why not. "As this is my last season in the U.S.," he says, "I want to make it one to remember."

The American Soccer League side have signed Eddie Firmani on a three year contract and hope that his presence will boost attendances.

Firmani, 45, was getting £40,000 a year from the Cosmos and his contract runs until the end of 1980. The New York club have promised to pay him in full.

He says: "I turned down two deals from West Coast clubs in the NASL which were each worth six figures. My family are happy in New York and this is where we want to stay.

"I'm here to make the New Jersey Americans the best side in the ASL and I hope also to give the League a little bit of credibility."

NASL standings

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	P	W	L	GF	GA	BP	Pts
New York	19	15	4	49	31	45	135
Washington	19	13	6	43	26	38	116
Toronto	20	10	10	33	39	32	92
Rochester	18	8	10	25	36	25	73

Central Division

Minnesota	20	15	5	44	29	41	131
Tulsa	19	9	10	41	37	36	90
Dallas	19	10	9	28	27	28	88
Atlanta	19	6	13	31	46	27	63

Western Division

Vancouver	19	12	7	34	21	33	105
Los Angeles	18	11	7	38	31	34	100
Seattle	18	8	10	31	26	27	75
Portland	19	7	12	31	47	29	71

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	P	W	L	GF	GA	BP	Pts
Tampa Bay	20	14	6	42	26	36	120
Fl. Lauderdale	18	11	7	44	34	38	104
New England	21	9	12	28	35	25	79
Philadelphia	19	7	12	33	35	33	75

Central Division

Houston	19	14	5	36	31	33	117
Chicago	18	10	8	39	34	35	95
Detroit	20	9	11	38	32	29	83
Memphis	19	5	14	23	39	22	52

Western Division

San Diego	20	9	11	33	37	30	84
California	20	8	12	28	35	26	74
Edmonton	20	5	15	23	47	23	53
San Jose	18	4	14	26	40	25	49

(*Total Points:— Win — 6 Pts., Defeat — 0 Pts., Bonus Points:— One point is awarded for each goal scored up to a maximum of three per team per game.)

Youth Cup is passport to fame

CRYSTAL Palace's success in winning the Second Division title last season was due to the outstanding contribution of the inexperienced newcomers in their side.

Strange to think that those youngsters will next season be competing in the toughest League in the world when only a year ago their main aim was to successfully defend the FA Youth Cup.

Winners of the trophy in 1977 and 1978, Kenny Sansom, Peter Nicholas, Billy Gilbert, Vince Hilaire, Jerry Murphy and Terry Fenwick are just some of the emerging talents in the Palace line-up involved in those triumphs.

And Palace's success in gaining promotion to the First Division follows in a strong tradition of clubs whose fortunes have prospered after winning the FA Youth Cup.

Consolation then for Millwall, whose only bright spot in a season in which they were relegated to Division Three was the success of their Youth team, who won the FA Youth Cup for the first time.

Already several of that winning line up have made their impression on the Football League, and clearly Millwall manager George Petchey has realised that it is with these youngsters that the club's future lies.

David Mehmet and Kevin O'Callaghan have already attracted scouts from top clubs, while Phil Coleman, Chris Dibble and Tony Kinsella have all gained League experience despite their tender years.

The Youth Cup was introduced in 1953, and famous clubs have won the trophy.

Most successful has been Manchester United. Those youngsters, of course, developed into the great Manchester United side affectionately known as the "Busby

Babes", the players who had already dominated English football before the tragedy of the Munich disaster in 1958.

Many famous internationals first made their mark in the FA Youth Cup, not least the irrepressible George Best, a member of the victorious United side of 1964.

He was just one of many players in that team who were to reshape United's fortunes in the 1960's. Jimmy Rimmer, David Sadler and John Fitzpatrick were others.

Fred Pickering, the former England centre-forward, who made a name with Everton in the mid-1960's, started his career as a defender with Blackburn Rovers, and it was in this capacity that he gained a Youth Cup winners' medal with them in 1959.

When Arsenal won the competi-

tion in 1966 against Sunderland there were two young Irish lads destined for the top in both domestic and International football, Pat Rice and Sammy Nelson, two outstanding defenders, who played a big part in Arsenal's FA Cup victory this year.

Indeed, when Rice and Nelson were celebrating Arsenal's tremendous League and Cup 'double' in 1971, the club's future was further assured when their youngsters returned the Youth Cup to the Highbury trophy cabinet.

A year later it was Aston Villa's turn to house the Youth Cup, and it was with a side bursting with talent that they beat Liverpool in the final.

England international full-back John Gidman was captain on that

day, and striker Brian Little was his future international team-mate. Coventry's current player-of-the-year, Bobby McDonald, was also a member of that Villa side, as was Luton goalkeeper Jake Findlay.

Another side to benefit from a successful youth policy in recent years have been Ipswich, who won the Youth Cup in 1973 and 1975, when John Wark, George Burley, Russell Osman and Terry Butcher first showed their enormous potential.

Now, it is Millwall's chance to carry on in the Youth Cup winners' glorious tradition.

They can take encouragement from the following table, which reveals that, more often than not, success comes three years after their junior side has won the Youth Cup.



Jerry Murphy

YEAR	YOUTH CUP WINNERS	SENIOR SIDE THREE YEARS LATER
1953	Man Utd	Lge Champions
1954	Man Utd	Lge Champions, FA Cup Finalists
1955	Man Utd	9th Div I, FA Cup Finalists
1956	Man Utd	2nd Div I
1957	Man Utd	7th Div I
1958	Wolves	3rd Div I
1959	Blackburn R	17th Div I
1960	Chelsea	Promoted Div II
1961	Chelsea	5th Div I
1962	Newcastle	Div II Champions
1963	West Ham	Lge Cup Finalists, 12th Div I
1964	Man Utd	Lge Champions
1965	Everton	FA Cup Finalists, 5th Div I
1966	Arsenal	Lge Cup Finalists, 4th Div I
1967	Sunderland	Relegated Div I
1968	Burnley	Relegated Div I
1969	Sunderland	5th Div II
1970	Tottenham	Lge Cup winners, 8th Div I
1971	Arsenal	10th Div I
1972	Aston Villa	Promoted Div II, LC winners
1973	Ipswich	6th Div I
1974	Tottenham	Relegated Div I
1975	Ipswich	FA Cup winners, 18th Div I
1976	West Brom	3rd Div I
1977	C Palace	—
1978	C Palace	—
1979	Millwall	—



Billy Gilbert

It looked as if striker Martin Robinson would be left out in the cold when Charlton decided to renew the goal-scoring partnership of Derek Hales and Mike Flanagan.

A bitter disappointment indeed for the lad who had arrived at The Valley from Tottenham in February of last year, to score seven vital League goals, which were largely instrumental in saving the club from relegation at the end of last season.

"Everyone knew what a success Derek and Mike had been when they played together for the club a few seasons ago when the manager discovered he could buy back Derek, from West Ham, it obviously looked like good business to him.

"The boss did in fact, play all three of us together in a League Cup game, before the start of the season, but our styles were too similar to be effective. It was obvious one of us would have to drop out.

"Naturally, I was well sick about it. Especially as I'd had such a good

ROBINSON PROVED HIS BOSS WRONG

run at the end of the previous season. And in the warm-up games I'd played alongside Derek, while Flanagan was still playing in America, and things began to work out quite well between us. Or so I thought."

Some players would have stormed in to see the manager and demanded a transfer. Not Robinson.

"It was far too soon for that sort of thing," he said. "I hadn't been at the club for five minutes. I decided to buckle down and show the boss he was wrong."

Martin was back in the first team after just four games.

And together with Flanagan, he helped put Charlton right up with the early-season pace-setters in the Second Division in 1978-79.



Unfortunately the euphoria didn't last. Results began to deteriorate. Then came that infamous on-field punch-up between Hales and Flanagan.

While manager Andy Nelson tried to sort it out, Robinson alone assumed the goalscoring responsibilities.

"I was the only recognised goalscorer in the team, and the other lads were relying heavily on me to get us out of trouble.

"I'd played virtually alone up front at the end of the previous season because Flanagan had flown off early to the States, and now I saw the chance to re-establish myself again.

"Hales did come back but unfortunately he was hampered by injuries, and we never really got a proper understanding going.

"Looking back now on the season as a whole, I proved that I warrant a regular place in the side.

"It was my first full season in any first team, and I managed to score 19 goals.

"That was the second season in succession we've managed to hang on to our Second Division status by the skin of our teeth. I know the rest of the lads will be as keen as I am not to make it a hat-trick."

ROY GREAVES
BOLTON



SHOOT!

JOE CORRIGAN
MANCHESTER CITY

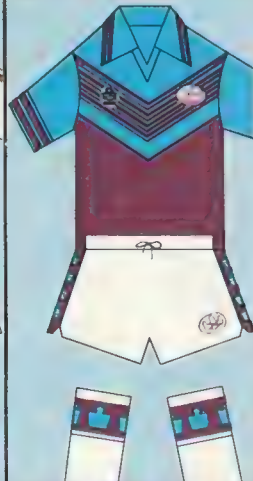


SHOOT!

SOUTHAMPTON HOME



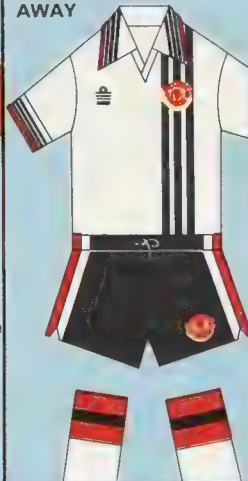
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Toothing held Forest

What was the result when Toothing & Mitcham met Nottingham Forest in the F.A. Cup about 20 years ago?

**MARK BELLWARD,
BERWICKSHIRE**

● Astonishingly, Mark, the London amateurs from the Isthmian League held Forest to a 2-2 draw in that Third Round tie in January, 1959 — and even then it took a lucky own-goal to help the First Divisioners save the day.

But plucky Toothing went down 3-0 away in the replay — and Forest, breathing again, went on to Wembley to win the Cup at the end of the season.

Entry form

Is it true that a League club once forgot to send-off an entry form for the F.A. Cup?

**NEIL CRIPWELL,
NEWCASTLE**

● Quite true, Neil — doubly so! For a couple have had to miss out for this reason.

The embarrassed clubs were Birmingham in 1921-22, followed by an equally forgetful O.P.R. in 1926-27.

And, much earlier Sheffield Wednesday missed the 1886-87 competition because their entry was late.

Four Divisioner John

How many League clubs did John McGovern play for before he joined Forest?

**ROY CAMPBELL,
WEMBLEY**

● The Forest skipper had played in all four Divisions by the age of 20, Roy — being "kidnapped" by Brian Clough all along the line.

McGovern kicked-off with 72 League games for Hartlepool — followed by 190 for Derby, and four for Leeds — before rejoining Cloughie at Forest in February, 1975.

Unbeaten at home

Has any team ever gone through more than a season without losing a single Football League game on their own ground?

**MARTIN PLUMB,
HERTS.**

● Yes they have, Martin, and the record is held by Millwall.

After losing their last home game of the 1963-64 season, they were unbeaten in 59 consecutive League matches at The Den before being beaten 2-1 by Plymouth on 14th January, 1967.

The games were spread over the Fourth, Third, and Second Divisions.

Famous bosses

Can you tell me if Workington, of the Northern Premier League, have had any managers who've later become famous with big clubs?

**DAVID TAYLOR,
WORKINGTON**

● They have indeed, David. To name just a handful from their Football League days, there was Joe Harvey (very successful at Newcastle); Keith Burkinshaw (now getting Spurs back in the groove); Ken Furphy (Sheffield United and American soccer scene); Norman Low (Norwich); and others.

Oh, yes, I nearly forgot... there was also a chap called Bill Shankly!

Cup stolen

Is it true the F.A. Cup was once stolen?

**K. J. PANTREY,
KENT**

● Quite true, though it wasn't the famous "old tin pot" we know today.

It was the original trophy which was stolen in 1895, when Aston Villa were the holders.

It was put on display in the window of a local shop in Newton Row, Birmingham — from where it was stolen and never seen again.

Its replacement was presented in 1910 by Lord Kinnaird in recognition of his completing 21 years' service as F.A. president — and the third, and present, Cup has been competed for each time since 1911.

SHORT PASSES

● Bobby Moore played a club-record 544 League games for West Ham between 1958 and 1974.

(**STEVEN GRAFTON, Shoreham**)

● Liverpool's record overall League scorer is Roger Hunt — 245 goals between 1959 and 1969.

(**OJO ORIMALADE, Nigeria**)

● Rotherham's first League game was a 1-1 draw at Lincoln (Div. Two) on 2nd September, 1893.

(**MARK RICHMOND, Rotherham**)

● Arsenal's record home gate is 73,295 (v. Sunderland, Div. One, 9th March, 1935).

(**SHERYL DAVIES, Basildon**)

● Chelsea's record victory is 13-0 — v. Jeunesse Hautcharage (Luxembourg); Cup-Winners' Cup, 29th September, 1971.

(**CHRIS BETTS, Walsall**)

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

Part two of our fascinating collection of extracts from Clive Thomas's new book, written in conjunction with fitness expert Tom Hudson, entitled "Soccer Referee" (Duckworth, London).

'I like to keep fans happy'

says **CLIVE THOMAS**

I'VE been refereeing now for 25 years, yet my enthusiasm for the game, my enjoyment and vitality remains undiminished.

Soccer has been kind to me. I've visited continents and countries which obviously I would not have had the opportunity of seeing if I hadn't made the grade as a referee. So if you have any notion of taking up the whistle, don't hesitate. You might not make the World Cup. Few referees do, but you'll enjoy yourself.

And I've made a lot of friends around the world and have standing invitations to visit them. Funny enough I was more involved with rugby enthusiasts out in Argentina during the 1978 World Cup series, than I was with the soccer fraternity.

That came about because of my friendship with a prominent Welsh Rugby Union personality George Morgan, who is Secretary of the Mid-Glamorgan Rugby Union.

George has acted officially for the Welsh Rugby Union as their liaison officer for a number of touring sides. When he heard of my World Cup appointment he immediately contacted his rugby friends in the Argentine and supplied me with a list of names and addresses.

Arrangements

I had hardly arrived at my hotel before they were on the telephone making arrangements to collect me and take me to their homes. They were all very kind and ensured I was well taken care of during my leisure time.

It is the kind of involvement I firmly believe helps promote sport and I've tried to do my bit in that direction. Referees should be prepared to attend functions and meet the people. I've sat on many charitable sports panels alongside rugby idols like former Welsh rugby international Barry John, ex-soccer stars like Welsh skipper Alf Sherwood and star Football League managers such as Brian Clough and Lawrie McMenemy.

Television has helped to put the spotlight on referees as well as players and I feel officials have a responsibility to play their part in furthering the game off the field as well as on it.

That's why I'm happy to mix with fans in supporters clubs after



a match and chat with them about aspects of that day's game and why I gave certain decisions. After all, if the fans didn't turn up there'd be no football and no need for referees.

It's quite a sobering experience to talk to fans, who quickly set you to right if you are becoming complacent about having had a good game.

These people are the lifeblood of the game. They deserve the highest respect and consideration and personally I've learned a lot from such meetings.

Appreciating that a referee is strictly concerned with fulfilling the Laws of the Game it might be beneficial if a uniformity of signals was made available for the fans to study to help them understand a referee's decision that much easier.

Quite often they think one thing, when in fact their favourite players are being penalised for something quite different. This confusion can raise the temperature of the crowd. Referees aren't there to inform fans — but it makes life easier for all concerned when spectators know the facts.

ZICO'S BEAUTIFUL GOAL

A GOAL that Pelé almost scored in the 1970 World Cup, when he dummed Uruguayan goalie Mazurkiewicz without touching the ball, only to have his shot to an empty goal deflected just in time by the rushing full-back Ubina. Well, a goal almost like that was scored by Zico when Flamengo beat Niterói 7-1.

Zico scored six of the seven goals and the other unusual thing in the game was that Niterói scored first! But Zico's fourth goal was according to himself, "the most beautiful ever scored in my career." Upon receiving a through ball, he ran one side of the goalkeeper, allowing the ball to go the other side, and then collected it deeper inside the penalty box to score. June 10th, the day of the game, is Zico's father's birthday and he dedicated the goal to him as a present.

Zico, who started playing in 1967, has so far scored 402 goals and is looking forward to the thousand goal mark. Also like Pelé.

WOLFGANG Seel holds the West German Cup. The Fortuna Düsseldorf star scored his club's goal in the final against Hertha Berlin, so Fortuna will once again be in the European Cup-Winners' Cup again next season. Last term they were beaten 4-3 in the final by Barcelona.



SANTOS 'BEST-EVER' TEAM

ARGENTINIAN magazine *El Gráfico* has been conducting a massive opinion poll among the world's players, managers and Press in a bid to determine The Greatest Team of all Time. Some of the voting was a little strange (30-year-old journalists voting for teams like Honved of 1952 which they couldn't possibly have seen 'live') and obviously the poll was conducted mostly in Argentina, which tilted the results heavily in favour of Argentinian teams.

In fact, in the final scrutiny no fewer than 21 of the top 34 teams listed came from the land of the Pampas and only nine are European clubs.

Patriotism apart, there was no doubt whatsoever about the winners — Pelé's great Santos team of the 1960's (photo shows Pelé in action for Santos in 1963). They polled almost double the number of votes of the runners-up, the great Real Madrid side of the 1950's. Behind these two there was a huge gap, and the also-rans are pretty tightly grouped.

Anyway, see what you think of the final list:

1 Santos (Brazil) 1960's	193 votes
2 Real Madrid (Spain) 1950's	103
3 Inter Milan (Italy) 1964/65	49
4 Ajax (Holland) 1970/74	47
5 River Plate (Argentina) 1942/45	43
6 Racing (Argentina) 1966/67	32
7 Independiente (Argentina) 1972/75	28
8 Honved (Hungary) 1952/54	22
9 Boca Juniors (Argentina) 1978	17
10 Bayern Munich (West Germany) 1972/76	13
= San Lorenzo (Argentina) 1946	13
12 Independiente (Argentina) 1938/39	11
= River Plate (Argentina) 1945/47	11
14 Independiente (Argentina) 1967/68	10
= Peñarol (Uruguay) 1960/65	10
16 River Plate (Argentina) 1957/59	9
17 Boca Juniors (Argentina) 1969	8
= Independiente (Argentina) 1964	8
= San Lorenzo (Argentina) 1968	8
20 Benfica (Portugal) 1962/66	7
= Estudiantes (Argentina) 1967/70	7
= Liverpool (England) 1977	7
= Millonarios (Colombia) 1949/51	7
= River Plate (Argentina) 1975	7
25 Boca Juniors (Argentina) 1962/64	6
= Huracan (Argentina) 1973/74	6
= Independiente (Argentina) 1977/78	6
= Racing (Argentina) 1949/51	6
27 Talleres de Cordoba (Argentina) 1974/78	5
= River Plate (Argentina) 1962/67	4
31 Boca Juniors (Argentina) 1976/77	3
= Botafogo (Brazil) 1958/60	3
= Juventus (Italy) 1957/58	3
= Manchester United (England) 1955/58	3

Qualified for the 1980 European Championship Quarter Finals as hosts, Italy are playing warm up games next season against Sweden, September 26 in Milan; Switzerland, November 17 in Naples, and three more matches yet to be arranged early in 1980.

Best seats at the Maracanã Stadium in Rio de Janeiro now cost £4.50, although for £8.50 you can buy a box for six people. Unnumbered seats cost 30 pence each.

Italian club Perugia have signed on the former driver of the club coach, who showed a lot of skill in kick-about and was invited to have a trial.

Italy's professional clubs (the top two Divisions) are pressing their Olympic Committee who run the state owned football pools for a bigger slice of the profits. Next season they want £250 million to share between them.

Brazilian referee Alvin Renzi has a habit of claiming the match ball after each game; now, clubs have decided to dock the cost of the ball from his fee!

West German team manager Jupp Derwall has solved the autograph problem. He now carries a pack of autographed photographs and hands them out.

The most popular Greek player is 38-year-old Mimis Domazos who played 490 League games for Panathinaikos and was recently transferred to AEK. He helped Pan with the Cup three times and League title 19 times(!), and with 49 caps behind him many fans would like to see him in the national team despite his age.



WORLD WIDE

COMPILED BY CHRIS DAVIES

CHUMPITAZ PLAYS ON

HECTOR Chumpitaz (35), Peru's captain in the last World Cup, has gone against his earlier decision and will continue playing for Peru. He has already played over 100 times in the national team, in official and unofficial matches. Chumpitaz had retired from international football to give younger players a chance to break through, but will continue probably because of pressure from the public.

Peru have started training with the South American Cup in mind. Peru are the holders and pass straight through to the Semi-Finals. Local football fans are obviously expecting the team to do as well this year. This is highly improbable as Brazil and possibly Argentina will be fielding their best teams, which wasn't so last time the Cup was played.

IS this a record? Former Argentine centre-forward Fisher signed for Boca Juniors on the Monday; on the Tuesday his contract was cancelled when he refused to train with the reserves in his first session!

He has since joined Desportivo Caldas of Colombia.

COSTLY SLIP

A MISTAKE by the commercial manager of Dutch club Fortuna SC could cost them thousands of pounds. In Holland, when a player's contract expires, he must be offered a new one by a certain date, otherwise he is considered an amateur again.

The maximum transfer fee for a Dutch amateur is £1,500; five Fortuna players received their new contracts one day late.

Now, a court must decide what happens. Their transfer value is either £7,500... or the more realistic £400,000.

Could prove to be a costly slip.

News flashes

A West German company is making a film about the career of Helmut Schoen (right). As well as using T.V. film of many of Germany's big games during his spell, Herr Schoen will re-visit the sites of many successes together with two of his former stars Uwe Seeler and Günter Netzer.

June 16th has been the date pencilled in for the start of the 1982 World Cup Finals.

Before the Cup-Winners' Cup Final, Fortuna Düsseldorf are in dispute with their players about the win bonus. The players wanted more than £6,000 a man, but finally settled for £4,000 if they won and £1,750 if they lost. They came out of it well.

After a tentative flirtation with Paris St. Germain, 24-year-old French international winger Dominique Rocheteau has signed a new two-year contract with Saint-Etienne.

Holland's oldest club Haarlem F.C. celebrates its 100 anniversary this year. Unknown compared to Ajax and Feyenoord, Haarlem were top dogs for years in the early days of Dutch soccer.

To mark the Year of the Child, Fortuna Düsseldorf made a gesture to the Under-16's for their last home Bundesliga match of the season against Borussia Mönchengladbach. 8,000 seats were reserved for children and tickets handed out free of charge. Said Director Benno Beiroth: "These youngsters are our public of tomorrow and we must look after them." Our clubs take note.

The Bulgarian F.A. has suspended Ivan Plachkov for one year. A member of the Bulgarian Olympics team, he refused to pose for a team photo because he was not going to be paid! Some amateur...

Horst-Dieter Hottges, a veteran of the 1966 World Cup Final, was asked by his club Werder Bremen to play on for one more year next season. But at 35, he thinks he has had enough. With 66 full caps he will have a benefit match in September.



'OUR TOP CLUBS PLAY

If I had my way, all the clubs that finished in the bottom six of the First Division last season would be kicking off the 1979-80 term in the Second Division.

Not that I've anything against Bolton, Wolves, Derby County, the three relegated teams, Q.P.R., Birmingham and Chelsea or those who won promotion, I would just like to see the First Division reduced to 16 clubs.

There's too much football played in this country, especially at the top level. A smaller First Division would allow our leading clubs to concentrate more on Europe.

Like it or not, foreign competitions are now becoming as important to the fans in Britain as the chase for domestic honours.

I believe I'm right in saying this country has had a finalist in one of the three major European tournaments throughout the Seventies.

The fact Liverpool and Nottingham Forest have won the European Cup for the past three seasons after playing something like 60 matches during the campaign makes their achievements more remarkable.

A cut back in our League programme would enable clubs to be even better prepared for these tour-

naments and reduce the risk of injury to key players.

But it's not only the First Division that needs reorganising. More and more of the clubs in the Third and Fourth Divisions are finding the going tough. Only lotteries and the deep pockets of their directors are keeping them alive.

I'm afraid that in the not too distant future some of these clubs will either go out of existence, or go part-time.

How the likes of Rochdale can survive on gates of around 1,000 is beyond me.

Perhaps the soccer authorities could devise a plan which puts more money their way... maybe a greater share out of fees the League receive from the Pools companies, or TV.

Personally, I would welcome a move which takes the likes of Manchester United, Spurs, Arsenal, Everton, Manchester City and Leeds out of the Football League altogether.

My dream is for a European Super-League with the cream of British football competing with the Hamburger SVs, Real Madrids, and Strasbourgs. A Common Market of football.

Think of it... Manchester United v. Hamburger SV one week, then away to Spurs.

It's only a dream... at the moment. With Europe slowly becoming one nation it could well become a reality in say ten years' time.

Before then, though we could have Celtic and Rangers playing in the Football League.

The reorganisation of the Scottish League a few years ago didn't really halt the dominance of the Big Two.

I was speaking to a couple of lads from Parkhead and Ibrox during the British Championship and they said many fans North of the border would welcome such a move. So they would.

I dread to think what the Scottish League chiefs would think about such a revolutionary move, though.

Another change I would make in soccer if I had the power would be to have less soccer on TV.

I realise it does a good promoting job for the game but I honestly believe TV also keeps the fans away.

There are so many other attractions these days that many people prefer to get all their football from the box on a Saturday night and Sunday afternoon.



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World Cup	Argentina	12.35	12.60	12.80	14.55	14.90	English L'gue	Liverpool	8.80	9.25	9.65	12.40	12.90
European Cup	Nottm Forest	n/a	11.15	11.55	13.65	14.50	Scottish L'gue	Glasgow Celtic	8.55	9.25	9.90	12.10	13.40
European Cup	Barcelona	10.85	11.30	11.70	13.55	14.20	N.A.S.L. Super	New York Cosmos	n/a	12.35	13.25	15.95	15.95
Winners Cup	Borussia	11.05	11.30	11.50	13.15	13.50	League	Real Madrid	9.95	10.20	10.40	12.10	12.50
UEFA Cup	Munchen G'bach	8.55	8.90	9.95	12.00	12.35	Spanish Cup						
English F.A.	Arsenal (H)	9.25	9.80	10.75	13.05	13.55							
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TOO MUCH FOOTBALL'

Deprive them of that pleasure and more of them might go along to support their local League side.

I realise many people can't go to games and rely on the box to watch their favourite sport, but why not give this idea a try for a season... as an experiment?

At least the new deal between the TV companies and the Football League means that something like £4 million will be coming to our game over the next few years.

Perhaps the Government could reduce the tax bills clubs have to find these days.

Let them keep more but stipulate they don't use the money on new players. I would like to see the extra cash spent on ground improvements.

my soccer world
**GORDON
MCQUEEN**



Gordon would like to see less soccer on TV



Rangers (dark shirt) v Southampton... a regular League fixture in the future?

There is support for the big city clubs to share one stadium as they do on the Continent, but I don't think that would work in Britain.

Tradition would stop such a move. I can't see Man. United fans going to Maine Road or vice versa. And how many Liverpool supporters would set foot in Goodison unless The Reds were playing Everton?

Building new stadiums is a great idea, but cost is the major factor against this.

I mean, look at Chelsea. They put up a new stand and it almost made them bankrupt.

The only way ahead is to improve our existing grounds and facilities and make them comfortable enough to attract the whole family

to games.

So more money for grounds, but less spent on players.

The transfer market has gone haywire and something should be done to get the fees restricted.

I hope Trevor Francis is the last of the £1 million deals. No player is worth more than £500,000, so I would set that as the maximum.

Let's put players in categories. A First Division player of international status, around 25 years of age should be worth the top fee.

A Second Division player of the same age, but not yet an international would be worth half that amount.

If a promising youngster is transferred from a Fourth Division club to one of the leading outfits then set

his fee at £100,000 with additional payments when he finally establishes himself and gains international recognition.

This may deprive smaller clubs of a larger transfer fee, but as I said earlier, they would receive the lion's share of money from the Pools companies. This should help to balance the books.

Talks of changes in the game and people immediately mention the rules.

There have been several experiments to change some of the laws, but really no one has come up with better alternatives.

The only recent change which has helped to speed up the game is the four step rule for goalkeepers.

What I would like to see is some

apparatus behind the goals which would help referees with penalty decisions.

Maybe an electronic eye which takes instant pictures of goalmouth incidents.

If a ref is in doubt as to an infringement of the rules he could consult the photo before making up his mind. Officials have a near impossible task at times.

You might spot a foul from your seat in the stand, but at ground level with a dozen or so players in front of you it is a different proposition.

Many players would like professional referees introduced into our game, but I don't think such a move would make them any better.

My main criticism of referees is their inconsistency. Give them more instruction, allow them to work more closely with players and managers by having regular meetings with the P.F.A.

One change everybody inside and out of the game would like to see is an end to soccer hooligans.

I understand the situation did ease slightly last season, but most people won't be happy until the problem has been wiped out.

As I said a few weeks back, give the louts stiffer sentences and make it harder for travelling fans to get drink.

Don't sell it on trains... search fans for bottles of booze before they board... close off-licences and supermarket drink counters before matches... ban its sale from grounds.

These measures won't stop hooligans entirely, of course, but will help to curb the source of most of the trouble.

Well, that's all for another week. Back soon...

We ask three First Division
skippers about

The Captain's Job

THERE have been times that Norwich have switched their plans completely once they're out on the field. And it's my job to make that change if things aren't going right.

It's difficult for a manager to alter them drastically while a game is in progress. He can wave and shout but it's the captain that is out there, getting the feel of the game. John Bond gives me the power to switch tactics as I see fit, at any stage of the match.

Obviously, my experience is important for I've been in the

game for so long. But the boss is always behind me in whatever decision I make on the field — and that is important to know.

I think the skipper should also be a liaison officer between the players and the other officials at the club. If players have worries or

'My responsibility to change our plans'

MARTIN PETERS
(Norwich City)

problems and want them sorted out, I'll try and help them to do so. A skipper can be most useful in that direction.

Of course, part of my job may be to shout at players, depending on the situation. But some captains don't do that — in fact, some say very little. I played for many years under Bobby Moore at West Ham and he hardly ever said a thing. He knew his players understood their jobs and he considered, I suppose, we were all professional enough not to need geeing up all the time. But it can be different.

Team selection? No, I'm not involved in that and wouldn't want to be. Dressing-room politics is not for me. I think it's up to the manager and no one else to pick the team. If I became involved, players might find out I had said leave them out or something and hold it against me in the future.

I'm a believer in doing what is right at a certain time, depending on what the situation demands. I don't have set thoughts or rules on how or when a captain should change something. It's just what the occasion demands.

Maybe some people think captaincy is just tossing up and lifting the trophies, if you're successful. But it's rather more than that. A captain can be really beneficial to both the club and the side.

Denis Smith models his
captaincy of Stoke on
Dave Mackay's style of
leadership.



'Organisation is the key to success'

DENIS SMITH
(Stoke City)

I THINK there is a role for captains in the game today but I do admit most of my duties are involved in off-the-field work. I look after social arrangements for all the players, sort out problems and help with any worries they might have. If there are events the players have to attend, I make sure all the arrangements go through.

There are things the skipper has to do on the field, too. I remember we played at Cardiff early last season and their captain made an awful decision when he won the toss. He decided to kick into a strong wind and, consequently, we'd virtually wrapped it up by half-time, they were under such pressure. Things like that can

decide a match.

The captain's job is to organise on the field, and give advice to his players. Howard Kendall, our former player-coach, was in our side, so on Saturdays I got the chance to shout at him because I'm skipper. All through the week he shouted at me — in training!

Organisation is a big thing. You must ensure there are no gaps around in your side because you can't always hear what the boss may be shouting from the touchline. If there was something out of place, I'd change it so there is that responsibility, too.

I don't get involved in actual team selection although I do talk with the boss about things. But he makes the final decision.

I wouldn't say I've modelled myself on any other captain, though I must say I always admired Dave Mackay for the superb example he always set at Tottenham and Derby. He shouted a lot but led by example and I'm sure that's what a skipper has to do. There is still a role for them to play, especially off the field.



Martin Peters
is given total
control to run
the team on
the pitch by
Norwich manager
John Bond.

'Not a lot for me to do'

DENNIS MORTIMER
(Aston Villa)

I REALLY don't see that there is that much to the captain's job these days. As far as I'm concerned, I'm only there to lead the team out, toss up and cover anything else that needs doing on the pitch.

If the referee needs a front man in the side to talk to, then I'm obviously the one for that. But I cannot see the need exists anything like as much these days for a captain, as it used to.

You are all leaders on the field; you can all shout at each other and keep each other going. I would like to think that none of our lads rely on the captain alone to do the necessary shouting. I believe if a player sees something going wrong or someone needs geeing up, then he should be able to do the shouting. If you're like that, you will do it anyway, regardless of whether you are captain or not.

Probably we don't need them, that's my initial reaction. After all, the manager should change tactics

and he is there on the touchline to alter things if he needs to. He talks to you before the start and during the interval so he has plenty of opportunity to alter tactics, for instance.

Some people seem to think skipper get more money and little perks such as that but I can assure them, it's not the case. At least, not in our club.

The only real time I'd say you need a captain is when you have arrangements to make off the field involving the players and someone has to sort the details out.

The captain is really like any shop steward, as far as I can see... you perhaps need someone to be a spokesman for you at times. But I don't think they do very much extra on the field.

Players get on with their own jobs but I suppose I do try to give encouragement to others on the field. But I did that anyway, well before I was made captain.

I play no part in picking the team and even when it comes to relaying instructions to players, the manager will do so by shouting from the touchline.

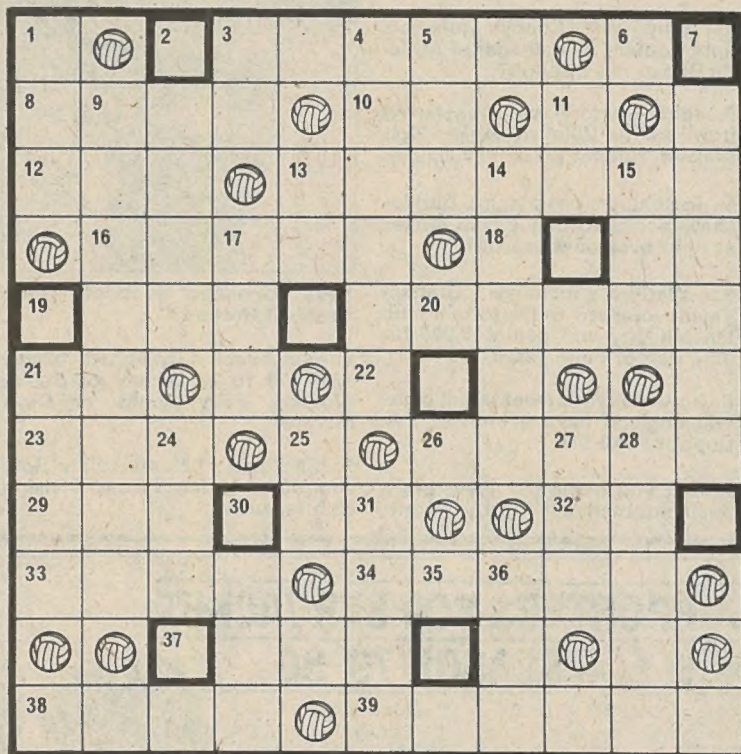
I haven't modelled myself on other skippers but then I was surprised when I was given the job by manager Ron Saunders at the start of last season, so I'd never really thought about it too much before then.



Dennis Mortimer, captain of Aston Villa, is not convinced clubs need skippers.

Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of an Aston Villa defender. Answers on page 42.



ACROSS:

- (2) Strength, or fibrous body part.
- (6) J--n Ryan of Norwich.
- (8) The "offside" one prevents many goals.
- (10) Ron --aley, Cardiff City 'keeper.
- (12) Boo-hf-rr- Park (Hull City). The omissions reversed.
- (13) Ron --, of Minnesota Kicks.
- (16) Race----- Ground (Wrexham). "Purge" from the missing letters.
- (18) Come to a standstill.
- (19) European Footballer of the Year, 1971, 1973 and 1974. (5 & 6).
- (21) B-u-dary Park, Oldham Athletic.
- (22) Struck.
- (23) David Lan--- (Derby County). The omissions in reverse.
- (26) Forename of Nottingham Forest 'keeper.
- (29) C--br-d-e U-it-d. Riddle from the missing letters.
- (32) -- Trafford, Manchester United's ground.
- (33) "Astral" idol!
- (34) Take five letters from Aberdeen to make "impress indelibly".
- (37) Terry -- of Spurs.
- (38) -orq-a- Unite-. Obligation from the omissions.
- (39) Whole or complete.

DOWN:

- (1) Gre--- Road, ground of Crewe Alexandra.
- (2) Contest between two teams.
- (3) --ton Park, West Ham's ground.
- (4) Ivor All----- record holder of most (67) Welsh caps.
- (5) Hire out.
- (7) Asa --, Nottingham Forest midfield player.
- (9) Echoing or resounding.
- (11) The --, home of Halifax Town.
- (13) Sport or amusement.
- (14) -olc--s-er-nited. A slide from the missing letters.
- (15) Take three letters from Mansfield to give a fairy.
- (17) H-me P--k, Plymouth Argyle.
- (19) Surname of Spurs striker, Chris --.
- (20) Tear.
- (24) S--rli-- -lbion. Monster from the omissions.
- (25) F.C. --sterdam; Dutch League club.
- (27) Brian Hor--- of Brighton.
- (28) Ironically, surname of one of the youngest Irish caps! (18 yrs 343 days).
- (30) Nigel --, Orient midfield player.
- (31) Fit and talented.
- (35) -- Saunders, boss of Aston Villa.
- (36) Alvin M---in of West Ham United.

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S Quiz Time

1. Arsenal paid £75,000 for a former England international. Can you name him?

2. Why did Bobby Robson's appointment as manager of Athletic Bilbao fall through?

3. John Gregory was transferred from Aston Villa to which First Division club for around £300,000?

4. Tottenham boss Keith Burkinshaw hopes to play which striker at right-back next season?

5. Watford manager Graham Taylor returned to his former club Lincoln City and paid £15,000 for Jim, Jeff or John Ward?

6. How many representative clubs will England have in the U.E.F.A. Cup for 1980-81?

7. Can you name the West Brom assistant-manager Derby County



have appointed as boss at the Baseball Ground?

8. Manchester City agreed to pay £300,000 to Wrexham for Bobby Shinton, Joey Jones or Dixie McNeil?

9. Blackpool's talented Billy Ronson joined which Second Division club recently?



10. Who is manager of Scottish Premier Division club Dundee?

11. If the 1930 World Cup holders entertained the 1976 European Championship winners in a friendly international, which two countries would be in opposition?

12. Can you identify this international midfield star (left) and which club he plays for?

13. Name the clubs that won (a) Premier, (b) First and (c) Second Division Championships in Scotland last season.

14. Was former West Brom star, Laurie Cunningham (extreme left), now Real Madrid, the first, second or third black player to represent England at full level?

15. Fulham's John Evanson moved to Blackburn, Bradford or Bournemouth recently?

ANSWERS:

1. O.P.R.'s John Hollins. 2. The Spanish club refused to pay Ipswich Town compensation for Robson. 3. Brighton. 4. Colin Lee. 5. John. 6. Three. 7. Colin Addison of W.B.A. 8. Shinton. 9. Cardiff City. 10. Tommy Gemmell. 11. Uruguay and Czechoslovakia. 12. Liverpool's Terry McDermott. 13. (a) Celtic, (b) Dundee, (c) Berwick. 14. Second Division. 15. Bournemouth.

GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

ACROSS:— (2) Muscle. (6) Oh. (8) Trap. (10) He. (12) Yet. (13) Futch. (16) Scour. (18) Halt. (19) Johan Cruyff. (21) On. (22) Hit. (23) Nag. (26) Peter. (29) Enigma. (32) Old. (33) Star. (34) Brand. (37) Naylor. (38) Duty. (39) Entire.

DOWN:— (1) Sty. (2) Match. (3) Up. (4) Church. (5) Let. (7) Hartford. (9) Resonant. (11) Shay. (13) Fun. (14) Chute. (15) Elf. (17) Oar. (19) Jones. (20) Rip. (24) Giant. (25) Am. (27) Ton. (28) Elder. (30) Gray. (31) Able. (35) Ron. (36) Art.

Jumbled Name: JOHN GIDMAN

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CHAMPIONS in EUROPE

compiled by
Michael Hendrix

AFTER their second successive defeat in the World Cup Final, Dutch fans were wondering what effect this would have on their domestic soccer. In 1974, when Holland lost to West Germany, there was a big setback... that, after Holland had played the best football, if not actually winning the tournament. Argentina wasn't quite the same. Holland played well, but the magic had gone, to be replaced by a more physical approach.

The 1978/79 season started well with Ajax bringing back memories of what we call the Halleluiah Ajax of the early 70's. They played fast, attacking football, scoring freely and looking like "white giants".

During this early period, Ajax reached a peak in matches against PSV Eindhoven and Athletic Bilbao in the U.E.F.A. Cup; both sides were torn apart by breathtaking play.

The Amsterdammers left their opponents behind. Feyenoord, with so many new players in the team, couldn't get going. AZ '67 dropped many points and were knocked out of Europe in the First Round, as were FC Twente. Only Roda JC looked like challenging Ajax.

However, after two months Ajax lost some of their sparkle. Roda, from the South of the Netherlands, surprised a lot of people as they had players who were considered past their best. Goalkeeper Jan Jongbloed wasn't far off his 40th birthday, and Theo de Jong had had a long career with Feyenoord. They found a new lease of life, though.



Their forward line was playing superbly — Adri Koster and Pierre Vermeulen on the wings, with Dick Nanninga, who had headed Holland's equaliser in the World Cup Final, at centre-forward.

The experts said Roda wouldn't last the pace, but a 2-1 win against Ajax in Amsterdam made everyone think. Ajax were beaten by only one goal, but in reality they were massacred by the eager Roda team.

A week later, Ajax had their revenge, beating Roda 3-0 in the Cup, but the Amsterdammers

Jan Peters, Feyenoord and Holland (right). Ruud Krol (below).



were beaten by Honved in the U.E.F.A. Cup while Rangers deservedly knocked out PSV.

Ajax and Roda were joint Winter Champions; PSV were in hot pursuit with AZ and Feyenoord catching up.

Like everyone else in Europe, we had more than our share of snow and soccer didn't start again until March. Ajax and PSV began badly and there was internal trouble at Ajax. As the results improved, things were smoothed over. Feyenoord grew stronger each week, thanks mainly to Jan Peters (not the Jan Peters of AZ who scored twice against England at Wembley). Roda took a three-point lead over Ajax at one time.

Roda had a poor Easter, though,

dropping three points in two games and Ajax took over at the top, with arch-rivals Feyenoord behind them. Roda were down and out and recovered only in the final matches.

Ajax beat Twente in the Cup to take the Double, although they are still a long way behind the great Ajax team of seven years ago.

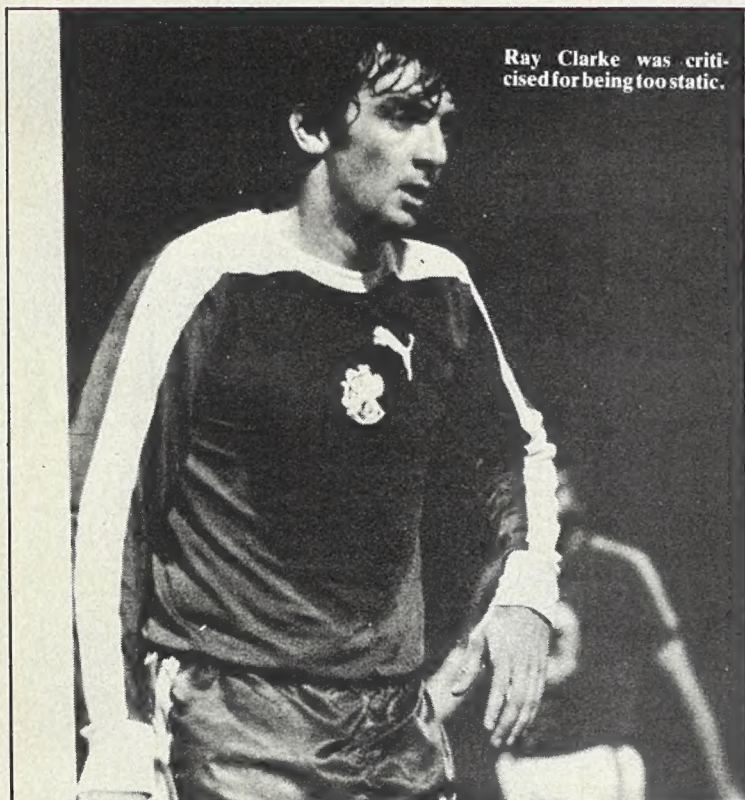
The standard in Holland is still on the decline and technical soccer has been replaced by industrial football. To Ajax's credit, they always placed the emphasis on attack, even if their star player was captain and sweeper Ruud Krol.

Ajax's other top players were new Holland winger Simon Tahamata, winger Tscheu la Ling, and the Danish schemers Frank Arnesen and Sören Lerby.

Then there is Englishman Ray Clarke, top scorer for the club, but criticised for being too static. The fans rarely let him down and nicknamed him King of Ajax, but some people "in high places" within the club don't appreciate Clarke.

The end of the season was marked by many North American Soccer League clubs "hiring" Dutch players, something managers and coaches could do nothing about. That is a problem you in Britain know only too well.

Ray Clarke was criticised for being too static.



FINAL TABLE

		P	W	D	L	F A	Pts
1.	Ajax	34	24	6	4	93:31	54
2.	Feyenoord	34	19	13	2	62:19	51
3.	PSV Eindhoven	34	20	9	5	65:23	49
4.	AZ '67 Alkmaar	34	19	7	8	84:43	45
5.	Roda Kerkrade	34	18	8	8	58:33	44
6.	Sparta Rotterdam	34	14	5	15	47:48	33
7.	Den Haag	34	11	11	12	43:55	33
8.	PEC Zwolle	34	7	18	9	36:46	32
9.	Go Ahead Deventer	34	11	9	14	48:48	31
10.	NAC Breda	34	8	15	11	41:51	31
11.	MVV Maastricht	34	9	13	12	26:45	31
12.	Twente Enschede	34	9	12	13	54:58	30
13.	Utrecht	34	10	10	14	43:55	30
14.	Vitesse Arnheim	34	7	15	12	42:63	29
15.	NEC Nijmegen	34	7	14	13	35:49	28
16.	Haarlem	34	6	13	15	31:64	25
17.	Volendam	34	7	8	19	42:63	22
18.	VVV Venlo	34	4	6	24	23:79	14

AJAX

BACK ROW (left to right): Krol, Schoenaker, Cramer, Schrijvers, Erkens, La Ling, van Dord.
 CENTRE ROW: Cor Brom (coach), Clarke, Wijnberg, Arnesen, Jeger, van der Brink, Lerby, Zuidema, Verkalk, Wolf (physio), Bobby Haarms (trainer).
 FRONT ROW: Tahamata, Everse, Keiser, Tervoort, Meijer (now Bristol City), Lamine, Meutstge.

